



Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

VIEWS FROM NOBBYS

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

Website : www.philas.org.au/newcastle

NOVEMBER, 2015 : Newsletter No. 175 : EDITOR: Ron Davis

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR SOCIETY

THE NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETS 7.30pm SECOND THURSDAY of EACH MONTH
MAYFIELD EX-SERVICES CLUB, 2nd FLOOR MEETING ROOM, HANBURY STREET , MAYFIELD AND
EACH THIRD WEDNESDAY AT 10.00 a.m. AT STUDIO 48, 48 MACKIE AVENUE, NEW LAMBTON.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

DATES	DETAILS
Thurs 12 Nov 2015	Display by Geoff Kellow (Sydney) "SIERRA LEONE KING GEORGE VI, THE STAMPS AND USAGE"
Sun. 15 Nov 2015	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Wed. 18 Nov 2015	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Bernard Doherty—"SOUTH AFRICAN POSTAGE DUES"
Thurs 10 Dec 2015	Display by David Collyer (Sydney) "SOUTH AFRICA ARCHITECTURE SERIES, STAMPS & USAGE"
Mon 14 Dec 2015	VISIT TO MAITLAND STAMP CLUB 7.30 p.m.
	No Newcastle Daytime Meeting
Sun 20 Dec 2015	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Thurs 14 Jan 2016	Member's Display - Everyone brings along 6 [max] pages of their favourite items
Sun 17 Jan 2016	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Wed. 20 Jan 2016	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Don Catterall - "POSTCARDS"
Thur 11 Feb 2016	Display by John Moore "Australia 1989 Sport Definitive Series, the Stamps and Usage"
Wed 17 Feb 2016	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Bruce Chadderton "THE LATTER PERIOD OF WORLD WAR 2"
Sun 21 Feb 2016	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Thurs 25th Feb 2016	AUCTION NIGHT Viewing from 7.00pm, Auctions starts 8.00pm. (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)
Thurs 10 Mar 2016	Display by Ron Davis "CAPETOWN, THROUGH THE COMOROS AND THE CONGO TO KHARTOUM"

Newcastle Philatelic Society - AUCTION REPORT, 24th SEPTEMBER 2015.

As happens too often on these nights, the heavens opened and conditions became most unpleasant. This doubtless affected attendance, but a goodly number of stalwarts still braved the weather and once again a good night ensued.

Twenty one vendors submitted 379 lots and of these 202 were sold resulting in an excellent sale rate of 53%. There were 37 bidders chasing the goodies, and almost all won something and several won quite a lot indeed !

Total sale figure for the night was \$1634 and that's a very healthy total, considering that on this night there were not too many high value items on offer. Top sale was a superb CTO pair of OS Kingsford Smith Airmails which fetched \$75. Next was a full set of 2009 Stanley Gibbons catalogues which went for \$50 after some heavy bidding.

A collection of MUH Decimal Australian stamps sold for \$40, which was well below half face value and sadly may finish up as postage. A very nice One Pound Robes sold for \$38, and an album of British Commonwealth was knocked down for \$32 after some considerable excitement. A big favourite was a collection of folders of world stamps on hagners broken alphabetically into 15 lots, and all of these sold with some reaching \$26 and \$22 and all being really good value.

Everything went well, thanks to our hard working team and also thanks to the vendors and buyers who make all this possible. Hope to see you in February 2016, but before that we have the National One Frame Exhibition on Oct 31st and Nov 1st. Should be a Treat!

Don Catterall, Operations Convenor.



A PIECE FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT ...

Greetings everyone !

First up, to be allowed to hold this position as President of the Newcastle Philatelic Society for the next two years is a great privilege. My thanks go to all of you.

I started collecting stamps at around the age of 7, when my Mother gave me a bag of stamps to while away the time on one of many train trips from Leeds to London. This was, presumably, to stop me asking "are we there yet". Not sure if it worked, but it certainly had me hooked on stamp collecting from there on. I think, like a lot of collectors, there would be the "wilderness" period during my late high School years and the subsequent early years of my career in the UK Merchant Navy. Too many other competing interests, plus the establishing of a career and indeed a family would take priority. I met my wonderful partner in life, Wendy, on a small passenger cargo liner called "Centaur" in 1978, and my life would change forever with a new life in Australia as a 3rd Mate, and subsequently Ship's Master, with BHP Shipping. The late 80's would see my interest grow again, plus a chance meeting with Bill Ball at a Sydney auction would lead me to the Newcastle Philatelic Society and my first meeting at Merewether High with Don Cox exhibiting Canadian airmails and Marie Simkus presiding as President. A wonderful combination plus some wonderful friendships would ensure that my collecting interests would remain permanent and quite serious, with the Soviet Arctic, German Occupation of Guernsey and subsequently North Borneo and Belgian Congo fuelling my habit. My father was a stamp collector for most of his life and yet he never joined a Stamp Club or Society. I think this was a great loss to the stamp collecting world and indeed I feel he would have reaped so many benefits from being in a society. Such is my desire to continue to promote, where possible, the advantages of Society membership to all ages and backgrounds. Like association football, it is a medium that brings all peoples of every nation together. Philatelic Societies and Exhibitions give us the opportunity to display our interests and, most importantly, to see material that we would otherwise never be able to see.

This brings me to our National One Frame Stamp and Postcard Exhibition, NORPEX 2015, just recently held a few days ago. Exhibitors, judges, dealers and visitors alike have left some great feedback in particular to the efforts of our Society in organizing, hosting and running the event. My appreciation goes to all those who took part in the various stages of this event. In particular we are grateful for the enormous efforts of our Secretary, John Moore, and to others without whose efforts the exhibition could not have been possible. They know who they are and we all know who they are, and so I will refrain from mentioning their names as I am sure that I would miss some inadvertently. I am sure that upcoming meetings will address this in a proper and appropriate manner. NORPEX 2015 was a success in way of some wonderful and varied entries from both experienced and novice exhibitors alike. Sadly, there were only two dealers, Tony Shields and Pittwater Stamps, who travelled great distances to be with us. Their efforts are most appreciated. The Judges did a marvelous job and their help, encouragement and advice will certainly remain a highlight. There was a good steady flow of visitors, and I think we managed to sell enough of our merchandise to ensure that we at least broke even. Likewise, upcoming meetings will look at this in more detail.

Before I take up any more room, we must recognize and thank our partners and families in life who have either quietly or actively supported us in our hobby and endeavours. Without their help and support there would be no hobby called Philately. Thank you again to everyone.

- Tony Walker, President -



Some scenes from NORPEX 2015, October 31st-November 1st 2015 at Pioneer Hall, Wallsend



AUSTRALIA'S "LIVING TOGETHER"

- ROSS WOOD (Western Australia) – Thursday 10th September 2015

Our Secretary John Moore presented this display on Ross Wood's behalf – the exhibit was on its way to an Exhibition in New Zealand, all the way from Mirrabooka 6941 in Western Australia.

The series provided a limited duration definitive series for Australia's Bicentennial Year, 1988. Issued in three parts in 1988, some of the definitive "Living Together" stamps had a short life because of postal rate changes. Others lasted into the 1990's. Some are hard to get – such as the 63 cents. Many were make-up values, like the 3 cents and 4 cents. Overall, the display was a very good example of what can be done with modern materials.

There were 26 values, Part 1 of the series being issued on 17th February 1988 (13 values), and Part 2 on 16th March (another 13 values). 28th September saw Part 3 – the 39 cents value – needed because of a rise in basic postage. Ross had made a study of the various reprints and the papers. There was a different paper used by the different printers. While the stamps were current, as well as the 39 cents value, there was a change in the overseas rate from 80 cents to 90 cents on 3rd September 1990.



868. Religion



870. Local Government



871. Trade Unions



878. Postal Services



885. Police



890. Performing Arts



891. Banking



893. Rescue & Emergency Services

It was noticed that many of the overseas covers had Czechoslovakian addresses on them – Ross's wife comes from there – so the 80 cents stamps were well studied. The sheets of reprints showed no koalas on the side of the sheets in January 1989, and then 1, 2 and 3 koalas, and eventually on some values, one kangaroo (equivalent to 5 koalas). Two koalas were shown on the 80 cents second reprint in April 1990, in alternate rows, and in August 1991, three koalas.

It is difficult to tell the various reprints on individual stamps without the koala emblems, but under an ultra-violet light, the whiteness of the paper shows the differences between the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd reprints. The stamps, all produced by well-known Australian cartoonists and illustrators, showed a light-hearted view of modern society.

– R.D. –

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts... So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them "Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down."

It's where we get the phrase "mind your P's and Q's"

** In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase "goodnight, sleep tight".

*** Smile – it will improve your face value.

THE SECRETARY'S SNIPPET – NOVEMBER 2015

The past few months have been very busy for the Society, culminating in NORPEX 2015 held 31st Oct/1st November. It was pleasing to see members, along with a number of visitors, willing to help when needed most during the set up and take down of the exhibits. It should not be forgotten that behind the scenes a number of willing helpers spent many hours rolling into days preparing souvenir products, repairing frames, data entry of exhibits and a thousand and one other things both big and small that go on behind the scenes in preparation for the 'big' day. I am sure elsewhere in this Newsletter there will be other reports.

On the subject of exhibitions, over the past 12 or so months or so I have had the privilege to attend a number of exhibitions in Australia, Taiwan, New Zealand and Singapore. From my observations, philately at an exhibiting level is riding a high, driven by the enthusiasm for collecting and exhibiting from China, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, and the Gulf States. One thing that is most obvious is the involvement of youth in our hobby in all of Asia and New Zealand, where as in Australia it is certainly in the 'doldrums'

Many of our members will remember our member, Lionel Savins, displaying his 1935 New Zealand pictorial material to the Society a few years back. Lionel has exhibited this material a number of times at exhibitions over the years, during which time he has added new items, culminating with a Gold Medal at the recent Wellington Capital Stamp Show. Well done, Lionel.

- John Moore, Secretary -



JULIUS BLAU ON TOUR WITH 4711

- Paul Storm (Sydney), Thursday 8th October 2015

Julius Blau was an Austrian travelling salesman who travelled all over the world (more or less) selling Eau de Cologne – 4711 – in the late 1890's and early 1900's.

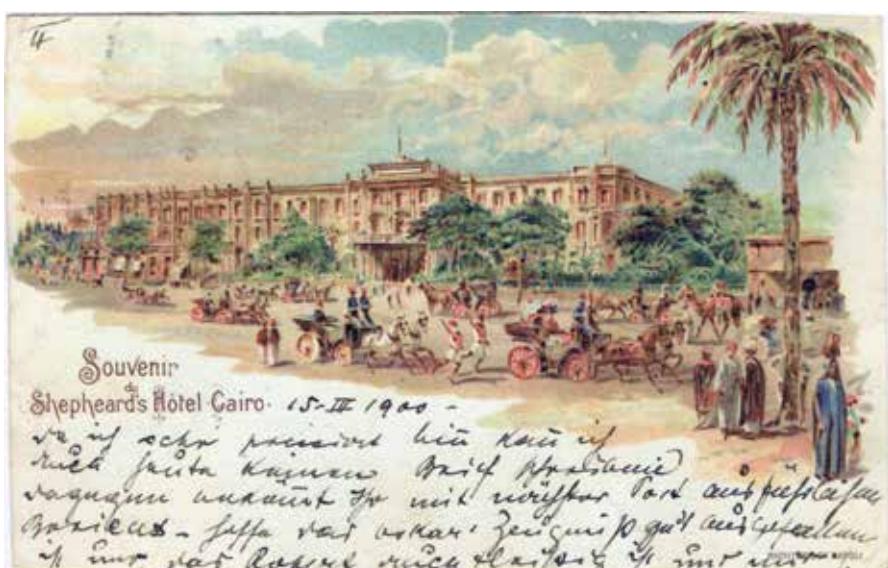
He kept in touch with his family through postcards, and continually mentioned to his three children in Vienna, Bertha, Robert and Oscar, "to study hard, and do your homework", no matter where HE was. An unusual example is the trio of postal cards sent from Zanzibar in June 1897. In it, he comments on his ports of call, and school exams. All Paul's display was written up with a black Rotring indian-ink pen in tiny writing, similar to the bottom of the Zanzibar picture. He admitted that he "couldn't do it now" – the "On Tour" topic was written up years ago !

A lot of Julius' time was spent in Egypt, and he often (usually) stayed at Shepheard's Hotel in Cairo – a place most often used by overseas travellers to Cairo, a bit like Raffles Hotel in Singapore. This Hotel had its own hand postmarker for client's mail – as did several other large hotels at the time – and there was such a cancel on the reverse (front?) of this card dated 15th March 1900 .

The source of this material was a huge box of mail, postcards, and miscellanea which found its way to a stamp dealer's office a long time after Julius had moved to Australia in the early 1900's. Paul happened to be involved there, and spent many happy hours sifting through this box, extracting whatever he thought was of interest.

Julius Blau travelled extensively throughout the Eastern countries, through Europe, the Pacific Islands and through northern Africa. He must have been a good salesman to sell eau de cologne in the hot and humid Third-World countries !

Paul's display showed items from many of these, sometimes obscure, countries, with equally obscure postmarks and was a very good presentation of one person's travels.



DON BOWER

Selling GERMAN stamps – from German Federal Republic (West Germany), including overprints, mint, and used. Phone 4955 5391

ANNUAL COMPETITION, Thursday 13th August 2015

There were 8 entries in this year's competition, all in the Experienced section. The three Judges were Don Catterall, Ed Burnard, and Ron Davis, and they were very impressed with the quality of the entries.

The Boer War, 1899 - 1902 - Concentration Camp and Burgher Camp Mail - John Pugsley.

Gaining 87.3 points and a Gold Award, this entry was quite outstanding, and was a well-deserved winner. John entered this display in NORPEX 2015 and gained 84 points and a Large Vermeil.

Chile - A Sampler of Postmarks and Postal Markings - Gordon Gibbons.

Gordon's entry gained 77 points and a Vermeil Award. It included some ancient and some scarce postmarks from remote parts of Chile.

Prisoner of War - Borneo Camps - Liberation and Repatriation - - Tony Walker

76.3, and a Vermeil Award. Comprising an interesting series of scarce covers and markings, Tony entered this in NORPEX 2015 and gained 80 points and a Large Vermeil.

A Study of the 1977 Christmas Stamps - Greg Laidler.

This study obtained 75.0, and a Vermeil Award. It was a detailed exposé of the missing colours, spots, retouches and errors in these common stamps. Greg entered this exhibit in NORPEX 2015 and gained 74 points and a Large Silver.

1938 2^d King George VI Die II, 1938-1941 - Don Rutherford.

73.7, and a Silver Award. A traditional display of postal usage, colour varieties, reprints, and perforation and paper varieties.



Numerical Cancels & Postmarks on NSW Stamps

- Russell Goddard. 72.7, and a Silver Award. Unusual postmarks from country New South Wales post offices, including a large number obtained from a hoard in Burraga NSW.



South Australian Postal Cards 1877 - 1908 - Mark Saxby.

71.0, a Silver Award. Imprinted postal cards issued mainly by the South Australian Post Offices over the years – very hard to get.

Libraries, Literature and Learning - Carol Davis.

66.7, a Silver Award.

This display started off in the "Something Philatelic Starting with the Letter 'L'" Competition in April some years ago. It caught her interest, and grew from there.



Regarding the Awards, they are allocated on the following basis – Gold = 85 plus, Vermeil = 75-85, Silver = 65-74, Silver Bronze = 55-64, and Bronze = 45-54. There are no "Large" Awards in Annual Competitions.



DID YOU KNOW that one Australian Prime Minister only served for 7 days, from 6th July to 13th July 1945? He was the shortest serving Prime minister in Australia's history – **Francis (Frank) Forde** (1890 – 1983).

After entering Parliament in 1922, he became Deputy Leader to Prime Minister **John Curtin** in 1941, when Labor returned to power. Forde became Minister for the Army, a vital role in wartime. On 5 July 1945, John Curtin died. As Deputy Leader, Forde was sworn in as Prime Minister on **6 July** by the Governor-General, Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester. At the leadership ballot on **13 July**, he contested the leadership with **Ben Chifley** and Norman Makin. But Chifley won, with Forde elected Deputy Leader once more. As Minister for Defence, he was much criticised for the slowness with which military personnel were being demobilized. As a result, he lost his seat at the 1946 election, though the Labor Party itself comfortably retained.

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).

BRITISH AFRICA — display by Bob Glendenning, Wednesday 19 August 2015

A stir of excitement during Bob's display – Anna Hill, who was born in Port Jamieson in what was Rhodesia, was looking at a postmark from her birthplace !

Bob started with the British South Africa Company (1890-1909) and concentrated on Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and later, the Gold Coast. Rhodesian stamps were issued from 1909 to 1924, when the country split into Northern and Southern Rhodesia. In addition to their stamps, the BCA overprints of British Central Africa were shown (1891-1895), Nyasaland KGV 1934-35, and Rhodesia and

Nyasaland 1954-1964. In 1974, the

50th Anniversary of the Founding of South Rhodesia stamps were issued. Northern Rhodesia is now Zambia, Nyasaland is now Malawi, and Southern Rhodesia is Zimbabwe.

Bob then showed Gold Coast from 1875 to 1928. The Gold Coast is now Ghana.

**EVEN MORE HARDLY-EVER-HEARD-OF COUNTRIES –**Display by Ron Davis, Wednesday 16th September 2015

Right in the middle of the Arctic's Bering Strait are two islands – Big Diomede and Little Diomede – entirely surrounded by ice in wintertime. While the big one is part of Russia, Little Diomede is part of Alaska, U.S.A. – and the two are separated by less than 3 kilometres and by the International Date line. 96% of its population of 110 are Eskimos, who mainly live by fishing, supplemented by the odd boat calling in and a helicopter.

Such was the type of material in Ron's display. He also had Guam, Mayotte, Buenos Aires, Zanzibar, Obock, Nossi bé, Bechuanaland, St. Marie de Madagascar, Benadir, Formosa, Aruba, Curacao, South Arabia, Odessa, Alsace, Nepal, Prince Edward Island Interesting !!

**SIX PAGES FROM MEMBERS' COLLECTIONS**Wednesday 21st October 2015

Thirteen members had 13 different displays, showing the wide range of our collecting interests.

DON CATTERALL – Don displayed the various products for sale at the forthcoming NORPEX 2015 One-Frame Exhibition: the medals, mini-sheets, and history.

RUSSELL GODDARD – displayed (on black sheets) some more of the NORPEX 2015 products.

LONA ROGERS – Stamps and postcards of CUBA and JAMAICA

GORDON SHEARER - early Australian Decimal Booklets, in full and split up.

JIM MACDOUGALL – History and culture of Canada : Explorers and settlement history – Jacques Cartier, Samuel de Champlain, the Acadians, the 1st Postal Service, the Loyalists and preparing for Federation.

CAROL DAVIS - Owls. They are on every continent except Antarctica.

KEITH LAVERICK - Greece.

ANNA HILL – sets of Beatrix Potter collectors' cards, from 1866 to 1940's : small cards for children's small hands, based on Beatrix Potter's pets – rabbits, frogs, lizards, and bats.

JOHN HILL - "Fallen Empires and Magnificent Men" : Peaceful Days of the first decade of the 20th Century – postcards of the British and French Empires, and the growth of aviation.

TONY WALKER – Belgian Congo : National Parks issues, 'hustle and bustle' on the Matadi River, and a letter to the Belgian Forces.

RON DAVIS - Unusual Places around Australia, mostly postcards and cancellations .

DON RUTHERFORD - Islands in the Caribbean : Barbados, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada.

SANDRA BAKER - the 2005 Scavenger Hunt.



NEWCASTLE NORPEX 2015 NATIONAL ONE FRAME EXHIBITION

There were a total of 86 entries from 52 exhibitors, including 10 from the local area of Newcastle.
 John Moore was one of the six judges.
 These are the awards to our Newcastle Philatelic Society members.

SPECIAL PRIZES

Best Exhibit from a First Time Exhibitor at National Level-donated by Australia Post

68. Greg Laidler [NSW] \$10 Painting Stamp

Best Exhibit from a Newcastle Member - donated by Newcastle Philatelic Society

29. Tony Walker [NSW] Soviet Arctic High Latitude Expeditions-Drift Stations

No. AEROPHILATELY

2	Inaugural Postal Service Flight – Cocos (Keeling) Islands to Australia 23 November 1955	<i>Kim D Dwyer</i>	78 Vermeil
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No. OPEN

11	Diamonds	<i>Kim D Dwyer</i>	75 Vermeil
12	The ANZAC Tradition.	<i>Donald Catterall</i>	67 Silver

No. POSTAL HISTORY

Frames

14	Australia Parcel Post Label P.P. 1	<i>Roger Eggleton</i>	75 Vermeil
18	Numeral Cancellations & Postmarks on N.S.W. Stamps 1880's - 1900's	<i>Russell John Goddard</i>	64 Silver Bronze
19	Re-Closing Label.	<i>Anthony Scott</i>	76 Vermeil
21	The Boer War 1899-1902 - Burgher/Concentration/Refugee Camps.	<i>John Pugsley</i>	84 Large Vermeil

No. POSTAL HISTORY 2C

22	Ladysmith 1899-1900.	<i>John Pugsley</i>	83 Large Vermeil
23	Prisoner of War - Borneo Camps - Liberation & Repatriation.	<i>Anthony L Walker</i>	80 Large Vermeil
24	Prisoner of War - Borneo Camps - 1942 to 1945	<i>Anthony L Walker</i>	83 Large Vermeil
26	Australian's at the Boer War.	<i>John Pugsley</i>	83 Large Vermeil

No. POLAR

27	Aubrey Gotley and the Establishment of Heard Island Base 1947-1949	<i>Kevin W Dwyer</i>	83 Large Vermeil
28	Ships chartered by ANARE 1947-1990	<i>Kevin W Dwyer</i>	75 Vermeil
29	Soviet Arctic High Latitude Expeditions - Drift Stations North Pole 4 & 5, 1955-1957	<i>Anthony L Walker</i>	85 Gold Special Prize

No. PICTURE POSTCARDS

39	Jenolan Caves - Developing a Tourist Destination 1800's - 1927	<i>Vivienne Scott</i>	74 Large Silver
40	Great Cricketers of the Early Years.	<i>Donald Catterall</i>	56 Bronze
42	Newcastle - Early Postcards of Harbour, Railway and Tram.	<i>Donald Catterall</i>	72 Large Silver

No. TRADITIONAL

68	\$10 Painting Stamp.	<i>Gregory Laidler</i>	87 Gold Special Prize
69	1977 Christmas Stamp.	<i>Gregory Laidler</i>	74 Large Silver
71	British Forces in Egypt.	<i>John Pugsley</i>	72 Large Silver
72	Egypt - Early Issues.	<i>John Pugsley</i>	71 Large Silver
79	Queensland Railways Parcel Stamp 1919-1927.	<i>Donald Catterall</i>	83 Large Vermeil

When I bought my I-PHONE, I thought about the 30-year business I ran with 1800 employees, all without a cell phone that plays music, takes videos, pictures and communicates with Facebook and Twitter. I signed up under duress for Twitter and Facebook, so my seven kids, their spouses, my 13 grand kids and 2 great grand kids could communicate with me in the modern way. I figured I could handle something as simple as Twitter with only 140 characters of space.

My phone was beeping every three minutes with the details of everything except the bowel movements of the entire next generation. I am not ready to live like this. I keep my cell phone in the garage in my golf bag.

The kids bought me a GPS for my last birthday because they say I get lost every now and then going over to the grocery store or library. I keep that in a box under my tool bench with the Blue tooth [it's red] phone I am supposed to use when I drive. I wore it once and was standing in line at ALDI talking to my wife and everyone in the nearest 50 yards was glaring at me. I had to take my hearing aid out to use it, and I got a little loud.

I mean the GPS looked pretty smart on my dash board, but the lady inside that gadget was the most annoying, rudest person I had run into in a long time. Every 10 minutes, she would sarcastically say, "Re-calc-u-lating." You would think that she could be nicer. It was like she could barely tolerate me. She would let go with a deep sigh and then tell me to make a U-turn at the next light. Then if I made a right turn instead.... Well, it was not a good relationship...

When I get really lost now, I call my wife and tell her the name of the cross streets, and while she is starting to develop the same tone as Gypsy, the GPS lady, at least she loves me.

To be perfectly frank, I am still trying to learn how to use the cordless phones in our house. We have had them for 4 years, but I still haven't figured out how I lose three phones all at once and have to run around digging under chair cushions, checking bathrooms, and the dirty laundry baskets when the phone rings.

The world is just getting too complex for me. They even mess me up every time I go to the grocery store. You would think they could settle on something themselves, but this sudden "Paper or Plastic?" every time I check out just knocks me for a loop. I bought some of those cloth reusable bags to avoid looking confused, but I never remember to take them with me.

Now I toss it back to them. When they ask me, "Paper or plastic?" I just say, "Doesn't matter to me. I am bi-sacksual." Then it's their turn to stare at me with a blank look. I was recently asked if I tweet. I answered, "No, but I do fart a lot."

We senior citizens don't need any more gadgets. The TV remote and the garage door remote are about all we can handle.

San Marino celebrates toilets : San Marino Post has dedicated its next stamp issue to World Toilet Day.

The philatelic set was designed by a French artist, Genevieve Gauckler. The set depicts colourful figures using toilets, but despite the playful graphics, the set has a serious message - the importance of making access to sanitation for all a priority of global development. In 2013 the UN General Assembly declared November the 19th "World Toilet Day" to remind developed western countries that access to sanitation, which we take for granted, is still a dream for a third of mankind.

2.5 billion people don't have access to proper sanitation, including toilets and latrines, with dramatic consequences on human health, dignity and security. Every day 2,000 children under 5 years old die because of diarrhoea due to poor sanitation. The most affected areas are India and Sub-Saharan Africa. Young girls are at particular risk as their search for privacy can make them vulnerable to assault.



OUR SOCIETY'S 2015 CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

This year, our Christmas Party will be held at **DON AND MARGARET CATTERALL's** place, **13 OCEANVIEW PARADE, CHARLESTOWN**, on **FRIDAY 27th NOVEMBER**, starting about 6 p.m. Don is providing the meat for a barbecue (cost will be "a pink note"), and is organising salads and sweets with selected members.

So all you have to bring along, apart from yourself and your partner (and your pink note), is "something of interest which you can talk about or about which you can tell a story".

No presents.

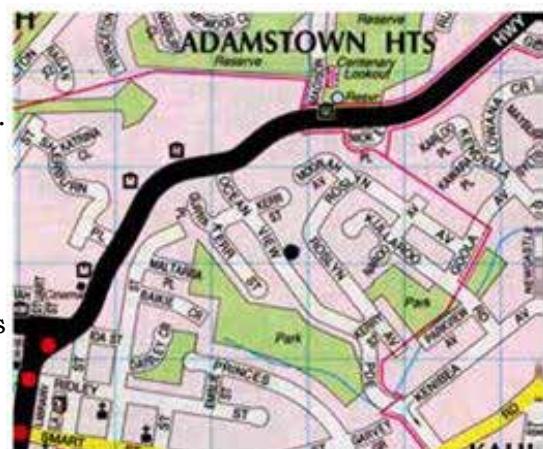
It's easy to find – if you're travelling north from Charlestown shops, it's the first place on the highway where you can turn right. Travelling south on the highway, Oceanview Parade is past the Madison Drive traffic lights, on the left. Their place is on the high side of the street.

Phone DON if there are any problems – on **4943 5639**.

Gregory's Map 335, G3, or UBD Map 154, B3.

Should be lots of fun.

But, if you can't get to the Party, then your Committee wishes you and your family joy, happiness, and all the very best of wishes for the 2015-2016 festive season !!



• DID YOU KNOW ... ??

If all is not lost, where is it?

AIR is deceptive stuff. Even at sea level, we tend to think of the air as being ethereal and all but weightless. In fact, it has plenty of bulk, and that bulk often exerts itself. As a marine scientist named Wyville Thomson wrote more than a century ago : "We sometimes find when we get up in the morning, by a rise of an inch in the barometer, that nearly half a ton has been quietly piled upon us during the night, but we experience no inconvenience, rather a feeling of exhilaration and buoyancy, since it requires a little less exertion to move our bodies in the denser medium. The reason you don't feel crushed under that extra half ton of pressure is the same reason your body would not be crushed deep beneath the sea : it is made mostly of incompressible fluids, which push back, equalizing the pressures within and without.

But get air in motion, as with a hurricane or even a stiff breeze, and you will quickly be reminded that it has very considerable mass. Altogether there are about 5,200 million million tons of air around us - 25 million tons for every square mile of the planet - a not inconsequential volume. When you get millions of tons of atmosphere rushing past at thirty or forty miles an hour, it's hardly a surprise that tree limbs snap and roof tiles go flying. A typical weather front may consist of 750 million tons of cold air pinned beneath a 1000 million tons of warmer air. Hardly a wonder that the result is at times meteorologically exciting.

Certainly there is no shortage of energy in the world above our heads. One thunderstorm, it has been calculated, can contain an amount of energy equivalent to four days' use of electricity for the whole United States. In the right conditions, storm clouds can rise to heights of six to ten miles and contain updrafts and downdrafts of one hundred miles an hour. These are often side by side, which is why pilots don't want to fly through them!

*** WALKING helps to keep you mentally alert; it helps dispel depression, is a good tonic for the blues, and it gives the benefits of more strenuous exercise without being too tiring. Walking is the recreation for all ages and can be regulated according to your fitness



A square centimetre of human skin can be populated by 5 million germs.