



## 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)

**NOVEMBER, 2017 : Newsletter No. 183 : 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**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
Thurs 9 Nov 2017	Display by Andrew Brockett "RAAF OVERSEAS MAIL DURING WWII"
Wed 15 Nov 2017	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Paul Storm – "THE WORLD'S GREATEST EXHIBITIONS (EXPOS) FROM 1851"
Sun 19 Nov 2017	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 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 2016	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
December 2017	<b>NO Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b>
Thurs 11 Jan 2018	Display by John Lavender/ Mark Saxby "HUNTER VALLEY POSTMARKS"
Wed 17 Jan 2018	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Anna Hill– "DESIGN ERRORS ON STAMPS"
Sun 21 Jan 2018	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Thurs 8 Feb 2018	Display by Warren Oliver "NEW SOUTH WALES"
Sun 18 Feb 2018	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Wed 21 Feb 2018	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton Display by Ed Burnard – " GREAT BRITAIN & N.Z. - THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS"
Thurs 22 Feb 2018	<b>STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)</b>
Thur 8 Mar 2018	Display by Don Catterall "POSTCARDS OF NEWCASTLE"
Sun 18 Mar 2018	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Wed 21 Mar 2018	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display "MEMBERS BRING UP TO 6 PAGES OR ITEMS CONNECTED WITH NEWCASTLE OR THE HUNTER REGION"

### PRESIDENT'S PIECE, November 2017

I would like to start by thanking everyone for the faith they have shown in me by nominating me to become President. More importantly, as President in the Centenary year of our Society. It is a year of celebrations and events . We will look back on the past, and plan for the future. This includes attracting new members.

I also congratulate our long-serving Secretary, John Moore, as being elected as the President of the Australian Philatelic Federation. This is a prestigious position, which involves a lot of travelling, chairing meetings, talking to judges, chatting with collectors, and much more besides. John is going to be very busy in his role as President of the APF and commissioner of the Newcastle Stamp and Coin Expo.

Finally, I look forward to working with a wonderful group of people, who share a passion for stamps and everything philatelic. Your friendship and support are indeed appreciated.

We have a big year in front of us, with your support we can make the Centenary year the best in one hundred years.

Enjoy the year ahead.

- Greg Laidler, President -

**THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT, 10th AUGUST 2017**

Another year has passed and my role as President has come to an end. I was absent from the last AGM and indeed my tenure has been punctuated with trips away plus a couple more voyages to sea. As such, my thanks go to some very patient Committee members, especially **Greg Laidler** who filled in for me. The Society continues to be in a very healthy state because of the efforts of this team.

My congratulations to **Ron Davis** who was awarded a Philas Certificate of Merit, and to **Kim and Kevin Dwyer** who were awarded for their many years of dedicated support to Philately with an APF SPAN. Of, course we cannot mention **Ron** without also mentioning **Carol** whose support would have been vital.

**Stephen Morris** continues to do a wonderful job with the promotion of philately to juniors. This is an amazing effort. The future is in good hands. Talking of which there was a huge turnout for the annual Popular Choice competition held at the April meeting for Something Philatelic Starting With the Letter 'Z' There were 18 entries with **Russell Goddard** winning with "Graf Zeppelin". I am not sure if this is a record but it would have to come close.

It would be fair to say that numbers attending the evening meetings have dwindled slightly however, I am hoping that this will turn around in due course. The day time meetings continue to attract a very loyal following. It is also very much a non-formal social gathering and we are grateful for the wonderful refreshments that are brought to these meetings. Thanks especially to **Sandra Baker** for allowing us to use her house. It is most appreciated.

The Christmas Party could not have happened without the invaluable help and advice from **Wendy**. Thanks also to the usual very high standard of "show and tells" that were brought along to the party. Previously, **Don and Margaret Catterall** did a wonderful job with the previous Christmas whilst I was at sea.

Next year is the Society's Centenary and we will be hosting a semi-national Stamp and Coin Show as part of the Centenary celebrations. Thank you to those who have put in an amazing effort so far with the preparations for this event. For those of you who are able, I would please urge you to volunteer during the Show. There will be 50 supporters' packs and it would be wonderful if we can sell them all. I would urge you to consider exhibiting at this Exhibition or at the very least consider putting in a non-competitive display. Whatever you collect in however way you wish to display it will be most welcome.

There are so many others who should be thanked in this Society and I note that this is well covered in the Secretary's report. I wholeheartedly endorse this. Please forgive me if anyone has been missed.

I mentioned **Carol Davis** earlier however, we should be grateful for all our partners, as they are the ones who support us and provide us with shelter in stormy waters.

In closing I wish you all well for the future and especially my best wishes to **Greg Laidler** who will take over as President.. With such an amazing committee and membership, the Society is in very good hands.

- Tony Walker, President -

\*\*\*\*\*

**AUCTION Report, 21st September 2017.**

"Quite a good night, but not one of our best" said a member, and I guess he was right.

No complaints though as sales were brisk and lots of excellent material was fought over. Over 50 were in attendance but only 34 took bidding cards which is well below average, and just 28 of those bidders won something to take home. There were 382 lots up for grabs and 153 or 40% of them sold, again below average, hence the member's comment ! Put it down to the fact that some of our keener buyers were missing, but to offset that somewhat, a couple of newcomers had a good time and certainly made their presence felt.

Total sales for the night were \$1,632, so most of the 20 vendors were quite well rewarded for their efforts.

Highest price of the night was paid for a lovely GB scarce plate 10 One Penny Black with all good margins etc. and this went for \$250.

Next came MUH pre-decimal Navigators with a Two Pound plus One Pound in both papers. A forest of hands greeted this lot, but only one was still raised at \$95. What a great buy ! \$95 was also paid for a thick expensive stockbook crammed with all sorts of early Australian stamps but mainly consisting of many pages of KGV penny reds.

A pair of NSW 1897 Consumptive Homes issues was then bid up to \$65, the 2/6d value putting a gleam in many eyes. Such a beautiful stamp. A set of MUH Arms came next and was a fine buy at \$50. This was followed by the \$40 paid for two FDC albums, very cheap at well under 50c per cover.

A stock book with lots of Roos and KGV's etc. went for only \$31. I think everyone went to sleep on that one. Next best was a stockbook of world material that sold for \$28. They say "Knowledge is Power" and it's true.

Last to get a mention was an 1885 Chinese Dragon that went to a single bidder for \$25 ! It should have gone to a Philas Auction. They go bananas for such beauties down there.

As always there were plenty of bargains to be had. Come along to our next Auction next February and help yourself. Our sincere thanks as always to all who participated.

- Don Catterall, Auction Convenor -

**THE SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT, 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2017****as presented at the Annual General meeting**

The Society meets monthly at the Mayfield Senior Citizens Centre. Currently the Society has 83 members. Attendance at the monthly meetings ranged from 17 to 26, with an average attendance of 21 members each. I would like to thank **Roger Eggleton** for his constant work in providing the food for supper, and cups and plates, and much good cheer.

During the year **Ron Davis** was awarded a Philas Certificate of Merit, and **Kim and Kevin Dwyer** an APF SPAN award for their many years of dedicated support to Philately. Well done to Ron, Kim and Kevin.

The regular auction nights and 'swap and sale' nights continue to attract good numbers of members, with some visitors. Auction nights always have over 20 vendors and over 40 bidders each auction. Thanks go to **Don Catterall** for his energetic efforts in organising both of these activities, which provide an additional outlet and interest to our members. Don should also be complimented on the monthly raffles he conducts.

The Day Time meeting is organised by **Ron Davis**, and is held in the gallery owned by one of our members **Sandra Baker**. Thanks go to Sandra for hosting these meetings, and to Ron who organises the meetings and ensures there is always something of interest for everyone. Following the day time meeting is morning tea, more like lunch, and thanks go to **Carol Davis, Anna Hill** and **Val Rutherford** and the others who bring food along. Sandra supplies the cups, plates, hot water and the lovely venue.

The 2016 Christmas party was held in the new venue, the Mayfield Senior Citizens Centre, which proved an ideal location. It is spacious, with a small kitchen, and enough furniture to seat everyone comfortably. Thanks to **Tony and Wendy Walker** with help from **Don and Margaret Catterall**, who did much of the organising for this successful Christmas get together.

The Newsletter is produced by **Ron Davis** with computer help from **Bernard Doherty**. Members can have a printed copy posted to them, or an electronic copy can be emailed to them. The electronic copy is in colour, and saves the Society printing and postage costs. With rising costs and declining earnings from investments I ask that people who are not already receiving an electronic copy do so in the future.

**Bernard Doherty** continues to maintain the Society website, and updates information as it comes to hand. The website address is [www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org](http://www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org). Please check out the website, as there is much useful information to be found.

**Steve Morris** continues to attract a limited number of young collectors to his youth activities. He meets in the foyer of the Pioneer Hall during the monthly Wallsend Stamp and Coin Fair.

**Mark Saxby** is publicity officer. He continues to promote our Society in printed magazines and on radio community announcements.

During the year some members displayed their collections to members of other clubs. Other members displayed in exhibitions, most notably Melbourne 2017 - seven members attended the exhibition here to view the exhibits and support the dealers. Five members contributed exhibits.

The **Doron Trophy** was again keenly contested with 9 society members being eligible. The winner was **Kim Dwyer** with a display on "SMS Emden".

Co-ordinated by **Roger Eggleton** a team of three members - **Jim MacDougall, Dave Roberts** and **Ron Davis** - entered in the Smithfield Stamp Club Challenge at Philas House where they were voted as the winning team.

The annual Popular Choice competition was held at the April meeting, the topic being something that started with the letter Z. There were 18 entries, with the winner being **Russell Goddard** with his display titled "Graf Zeppelin".

Another popular activity was the Stamp Trivia Night. It was organised by **Don Catterall**, who asked questions about various Australian and worldwide stamps. The winner on this occasion was **John Hill**.

The Annual Club Competition is like a mini exhibition with six entries this year, all in the experienced section with the winner being **Greg Korsman**.

Next year is the Society's Centenary with a major highlight to celebrate this event being an Australian half-national exhibition to be held 25-27 May 2018. The Newcastle Showground Exhibition Centre has been booked. A small team is busily preparing advertising, booking of dealers and seeking exhibits.

- John Moore, Hon. Secretary -

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\* A former runt of the litter has grown up to be the tallest dog in the world. Guinness World Records has bestowed the title on a 4-year-old Great Dane named Freddy, who lives in the UK. Freddy is officially 7 feet 5.5 inches tall (227.33 centimetres) when standing on his hind legs. He mostly eats roast chicken and peanut butter on toast.

\*\*\* Versailles, the extravagant palace built by France's Louis XIV, has over 2000 rooms, but not a single indoor toilet !

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE AUSTRALIAN PAINTINGS SERIES, PART 2**

**- display by GREG LAIDLER, Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

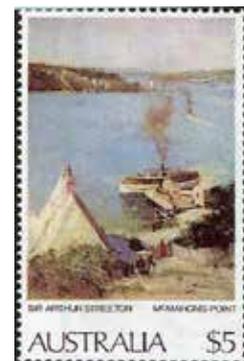
Have you ever seen a complete sheet of 50 of the \$10 Tom Roberts' "Coming South" stamp before !! ? Greg had multiples of it, AND the \$5 and the \$2 high value stamps in his display, together with varieties of each one.



Part 1 of this series dealt with the \$1 Sergeant of the Light Horse painting, the \$2 Red Gums of the Far North, and the \$4 Shearing the Rams paintings.

The \$10 stamp of October 1977 was used to pay air mail overseas and for international Priority post. They had to go through the printing press twice – yellow and blue first, and red and black were on the second run. They were printed four frames side by side. There are 50 different "fly specks" on these stamps – red dot faults predominate. Some occur once – at the end of a run – others up to four times. The total printing was 6,200,000 stamps.

Arthur Streeton's \$5 "McMahons Point" stamp was issued in March 1979. Printed in sheets of 200, it was more messy than the \$10 stamp. Fly specks galore. The sheet colour bars were all guillotined off before the Post Offices got them in sheets of 50.



Five different types of paper were used for Fred McCubbin's \$2 "On the Wallaby Track". Issued in June 1987, it was originally printed on Australian paper, but when the paper mill closed, imported paper was used. It was required because of a change in letter rates and registration fees.



- Increases were :
- 1982 – 27c + \$3.00 registration;
- October 1983 – 30c + \$3.30 registration,
- March 1985 – 33c + \$3.65 registration;
- October 1985 – 33c + \$4.50 Security Post;
- August 1986 – 36c + \$5.00 Security Post.

Registered Post was changed to Security Post, and a new \$5 "A Holiday in Mentone" stamp was produced in April 1984, painted by Charles Conder. This stamp, and the \$2, and \$10 stamp were all replaced in 1989, plus a new \$20 in 1990.

\*\*\*\*\*

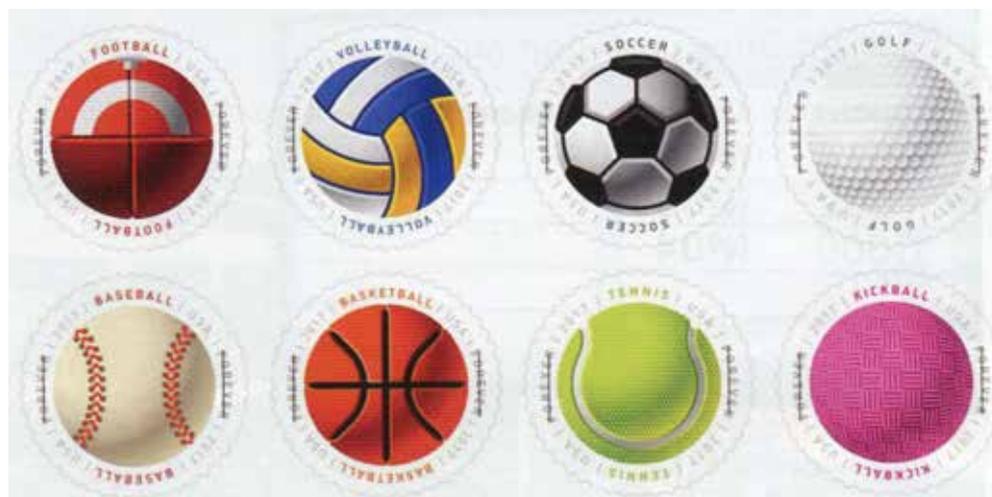
**ON THE BALL IN THE USA**

Reported at <https://about.usps.com>

The U.S. Postal service is getting a little touchy about their new stamps. Postal officials have released first-of-a-kind stamps with the look — and feel — of actual balls used in eight popular sports.

The "Have a Ball! Forever" stamps were available nationwide on 14 June 2017, and depict balls used in baseball,

basketball, football, golf, kickball, soccer, tennis and volleyball.



Officials say a special coating applied to selected areas of the stamps during the printing process gives them a texture that mimics the feel of a baseball's stitching; golf ball's dimples; tennis ball's seams; soccer ball or volleyball's textured panels; and the different raised patterns of a football, basketball and kickball.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE ANNUAL COMPETITION, THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2017

As usual, we did not get any Beginners or Intermediate entries for this Annual Competition. We did, however, get six Experienced entries.

These entries were judged prior to the meeting by Ron Davis, David Roberts and John Moore, with the results announced on the night along with the presentation of certificates.

The entries in this Section were :

**GREG KORSMAN** – *Australian Pioneer Airmail* (74 points);

Greg had some really remarkable scarce or rare covers in the entry, often overlapped. Greg didn't have a very good Plan of his entry, which suffered accordingly. But he still gained First Place – by one point.



**GREG LAIDLER** – *A Study of the 1-cent Bird Definitive Featuring the "Zebra Finch"* (73 points);



Greg's entry was also remarkable, featuring full sheets, blocks, gutter strips, koalas and kangaroos on the selvedge, and the various reprints. Included was a 2-cent Crimson Finch, which dragged the score down a little. Greg scored Second Place.

**CAROL DAVIS** – *Paddle Wheelers* (71 points);

Carol's entry had stamps and postcards of several of the steam and motorised paddle wheelers operating on the rivers around Eastern Australia, as well as some from New Zealand. Carol gained third place.



**ROGER EGGLETON** – *Australian Commemorative Poster Stamps* (70 points);

Roger had all of Australia's Sesquicentenary (1938) poster stamps – the perforated brown-framed set, and the rarer orange framed rouletted set. With a study of varieties, they showed views around Australia of well-known items and places.



**DON CATTERALL** – *The Battle of Waterloo – A Near-Run Thing* (69 points);

A commercial series of postcards showed various phases of the Waterloo battle as it progressed, and portraits of the leading generals.



**RUSSELL GODDARD** – *Joint Stamp Issues with Australia* (63 points).

Australia has combined with various Asian and other countries to produce joint stamp issues over the years. Russell showed several of these issues – both the stamps and the miniature sheets.



*Each time you lick a stamp, you consume one-tenth of a calorie.*

Cheque Account :

Opening Balance \$4042.74  
Deposits \$3044.93  
Total \$7087.67  
Less Withdrawals \$4015.07  
**Closing Balance \$3072.60**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 2017-2018** : The following were elected

PRESIDENT - Greg Laidler  
VICE PRESIDENT - David Roberts  
SECRETARY - John Moore  
TREASURER - Don Rutherford  
COMMITTEE - Sandra Baker, Don Catterall and Ron Davis  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - Tony Walker  
SUB-COMMITTEE VICE PRESIDENT – Roger Eggleton  
PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE  
PUBLICITY OFFICER - Mark Saxby  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Ron Davis  
JUNIOR PROMOTION - Stephen Morris  
COMMITTEE MEMBER - Ed Burnard, Kevin Simkus  
ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE  
OPERATIONS CONVENOR - Don Catterall  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS - Carol Davis, Keith Kestel, Jim McDougall  
HONORARY AUDITOR - Dr. John Hill FRPSL  
HONORARY SOLICITOR - David Noonan  
PUBLIC OFFICER - Bernard Doherty FAP



\*\*\*\*\*

### HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?

*“The first Philatelic Congress of Great Britain was held in conjunction with a stamp exhibition in Manchester in 1909. Since then, they have been held annually with the exception of the war years. Nearly all Congresses have had a special postmark and many have had special souvenirs of a philatelic nature, printed in many cases by the country’s leading postage stamp printers.”*

How did I learn this (and much more on the subject)? In the *London Philatelist*, Sept. 2016, p.388, I saw that the Francis Kiddle Congress Collection was a Standing Display of the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL), and that the RPSL website [www.rpsl.org.uk/events\\_Standing-Displays.asp](http://www.rpsl.org.uk/events_Standing-Displays.asp) makes all such displays publicly accessible. The above paragraph is a direct quotation, found by on-line viewing the wonderful Francis Kiddle collection, which he donated to the RPSL Archives in 2015.

It is always worth your time to browse a philatelic journal. You might find an unexpected gem of new information central to one of your collecting interests. Yet reading outside your specific interests will also pay rich dividends. You will pick up ideas that you can use, information that broadens your understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the collecting methods and research of others, and interests built up over time might well stimulate you to new collecting areas in the future. Quality philatelic articles deserve readership. What you learn might even have financial benefits. As one stamp dealer frequently remarks, “Knowledge is Power”.

Newcastle Philatelic Society receives many periodicals. These circulate among members whose names are on the circulation lists. Some are donated by members, at significant savings to NPS. The Society also subscribes to many periodicals, there-by supporting philatelic publishing, and public philately in general. If you are not already on the circulation lists, ask Secretary John Moore to add you to them. (Those with few readers might be vulnerable if we have to cut back on Society expenditure any time soon.) John has listed below the periodicals we currently circulate.

- Roger Eggleton -

#### Periodicals on NPS Current Circulation List

Australian Stamp Professional	The Armidale Circle
Stamp News	Sydney Views
Philately from Australia,	London Philatelist
Cinderellas Australasia	Capital Philately
Australian Commonwealth Collectors Club Bulletin	Great Britain’s Stamp Magazine

Circulation is achieved by members personally passing copies they have finished reading on to the next person on the list, at our Society meetings. Copies are not mailed to members that are out of town and those that do not attend meetings.

- John Moore -

## 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).

### SIX PAGES PER MEMBER, Wednesday 16th August 2017

**JOHN EDWARDS** had King George V sets of Australia, showing the development of the Georgian dies, the new Mullett dies, and new values from the 1d die.

**TONY WALKER** displayed the 1956 to 1971 ART series from Czechoslovakia.

**RUSSELL GODDARD** showed The Ghan 2004 – the new Ghan and the old Ghan Australian trains.

**JIM MacDOUGALL** displayed the Founding of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in 1749 – the 200 years Anniversary in 1949 covers with convoys from Halifax in World War 2, showing much military history, Admiralty House's beautiful Library, and a table in the middle of the Library around which captains of all the escort ships met.

**KEITH LAVERICK** had a miscellanea of pages ranging from Volcanoes to Tiny Islands.

**RON DAVIS** also had a miscellanea of pages, from the Australian enclaves of Hutt River Province and Rainbow Creek, and also from other Hardly-Ever-Hard-Of countries.

**DON CATTERALL** showed "T is for Tax" - Tax Stamps and Betting Tickets from NSW and around Australia, particularly Australian Betting Tax ½d and 1d rates stamp duty, and their decimalization on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1966.

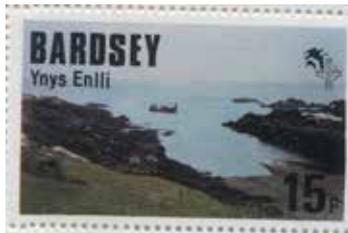
**ED BURNARD** displayed early 1852 stamps from the southern area of Thurn and Taxis, later Wurttemberg in Germany. The north and south had different currencies – silbergroschen and kreuzer. Quite hard to get !

**GREG LAIDLER** showed two different subjects – three pages of the South Australian Centenary air race, and three pages of other air mail covers, showing the early aviatrix Nancy Bird Walton and a then new American Stinson aircraft.

**ROGER EGGLETON** had mixed up the days, and hadn't brought his pages along !

### THE OFFSHORE ISLANDS OF GREAT BRITAIN,

- display by **RON DAVIS**, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017



When Ron displayed his Great Britain's Offshore Islands collection at Norpex 2003, there were 28 official stamp-issuing offshore islands. In the intervening years, more and more islands have issued stamps. The very first was LUNDY, in 1929, which has continued issuing stamps ever since. In 1969, the Channel Islands attached to Guernsey – Herm, Lihou, Brequhou, and Jethou were taken over by Guernsey Post, and their stamp issues ceased forthwith. Jersey, Sark and Alderney however continued to the present day. All the "local post issues" which Gibbons refers to them as, paid for carriage of mail from the island to the nearest British Post Office. Others are merely tourist souvenir labels, printed for the maze of summer tourists to the islands – such as Shuna, Carn Iar, Calf of Man, and Stroma. Some of them are extremely scarce – such as Inchholm and Flannan Islands. But all of them, according to Ron, have very interesting histories ...



### AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINALIA -

- display by **HOWARD FISHER (Toronto)**, Wednesday 18 October 2017



It was mind-boggling the number of Aboriginal-themed stamps that Australia has issued, when they were all put together. 1930 was the first philatelic reference to Aborigines (the Sturt Centenary), and 1950 saw the One Pound Jimmy stamp. 1968 was the first Aborigine to be named – Albert Namatjira. 1971 was the first Aboriginal art,



and 1975 saw the first Aboriginal female shown on an Australian stamp – Truganini (but in 1970, the Vatican did it!), and 2000 saw an aboriginal girl in the Faces of Australia series, and Cathy Freeman in the Olympics issue. Then there were more Aborigines in the Indigenous Leaders issue of 2013, and the Australian Legends series in 2017.



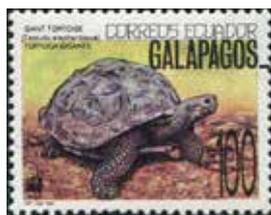
Howard split his display up into sections – starting with Ancient Australia, the coming of the British, then Early encounters with Aborigines, through to the portraits of the 1990's. But he also pointed out that an Aborigine was shown on Australia's \$1 banknote.

**\*\*\* The skeletal mass of some mammals can account for as much as one-third of their total body weight. But a pigeon's feathers alone weigh more than its bones.**

\*\*\*\*\*

# A WORLD ALPHABET OF UNUSUAL COUNTRIES – Abkhazia to Zululand

## - display by RON DAVIS, Thursday 12 October 2017



Ron deliberately sought out unusual countries for his WORLD ALPHABET, and displayed countries which some of us had never heard of! He had three countries for each letter of the alphabet, 26 of which are shown here. He had a small map on most of the pages, which we found to be a useful guide. Ron has been collecting stamps since he was 11, when he swapped his water pistol for his brother's stamp collection. In his university days, he used to haunt the Royal Arcade in Sydney – the “home” of many stamp dealers, and later, ten years in Dubbo, alongside the late Bill Hornadge's Seven Seas Stamps, added many weird countries to his Hardly-Ever-Heard-Of collection. The Royal Sydney Stamp Club circuit books, our local Philatelic Society circuit books, and various stamp auctions, together with the odd lot from eBay, were his other sources. Usually he discovered the stamps first, bought them, and then researched where they were. Some countries, but especially some of the tiny islands, were very hard to research. He is still not quite sure if Possession Island is off the coast of Namibia, or is elsewhere – he has two stamps from there. While he concentrates on Animals, Birds, Industries, and Scenes from each country, many countries have not produced ANY stamps showing these themes – but he collects them anyway. The development of Wikipedia and the Internet has made finding out about the most elusive countries a lot easier.

It's probably a good thing that Ron doesn't believe in completion of any country - well over 2000 countries would be a real “challenge”. But nevertheless, he has several “complete country collections” of some “dead” countries – countries which have ceased to exist. The breaking up of the U.S.S.R. provided a whole lot of new countries – Abkhazia is one of these – but the vast number of unusual countries date back for some decades, even a century – such as Funchal, Horta, and Nova Scotia. Some are quite scarce – such as the British Occupation of Long Island (now Uzun in Turkey), whose primitive type-written stamps were only on issue for 19 days in May, 1916.

\*\*\* The dot above an i and a j is called a tittle.

## ASTRONOMY: A TRICK OF LIGHT HELPS MEASURE DWARF'S MASS

- Andrew Masterson

How much does a dead star weigh? That's a question now with at least one solid answer - thanks to an experiment first suggested by Albert Einstein a century ago.

This month, astronomers led by Howard Bond, of NASA's Space Telescope Science Institute, announced they had successfully measured the mass of a type of shrunken dead star called a white dwarf. They did so using the Hubble space telescope and a test first devised by Einstein as a test of his general theory of relativity.



Albert Einstein: still relevant

Einstein theorised that light should be affected by the mass of huge objects, such that light beams should bend around them. The theory was essentially proven during a solar eclipse in 1919 – catapulting the physicist to world fame. Using the same principle, Bond and his colleagues aimed Hubble at a white dwarf known as *Stein 2051B* as it passed in front of another star. Relativity predicts that the light emanating from the background star should bend as the dwarf moves in and out of its way. The difference in the bent and straight line light arrival times is the crucial variable that permits the dwarf to be measured. That difference turned out to be about two milliarcseconds - equivalent to 0.0000005555555556 of one degree.

This equates to roughly 68 per cent of the mass of our own sun - a measurement, the scientists reported, that accorded well with earlier theoretical estimates based on the dwarf's known radius and other values.

The research was published in the journal *Science*. The team's next project is to measure the mass of the sun's nearest neighbour, the star Proxima Centauri.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 50 YEARS OF MACHIN-DESIGN STAMPS

In 1964 Arnold Machin was chosen to design a new effigy of Queen Elizabeth II for the decimal coinage that was to be introduced in 1968. The effigy was used on all British coins until 1984. It was used on the coins of Canada from 1965 to 1989, Australia from 1966 to 1984, and in New Zealand from 1967 to 1985.



Machin prepared a bas-relief of the Queen in clay from sculpted clay for both the coin and the stamp effigies.

In 1966 the Queen approved the use of the Machin image of her on what was to become the Machin definitive stamp series of definitive stamps.

The first Machin stamps were issued in 1967. Values were denominated in "old" pence and shillings.

The design was first used on the 4d value which was issued in June 1967. The design has been used on all British definitive stamps (but not the regional issues) ever since. It has been stated that this is the

most reproduced design ever, having been used on 320 million stamps.



To commemorate 50 years of Machin-design stamps, Royal Mail in June 2017 issued a mini-sheet featuring six 1<sup>st</sup> Class stamps at £3.99 and a prestige booklet at £15.99.

Arnold Machin was a sculptor in his own right. He took up sculpture after being released from prison for being a conscientious objector in World War II. He was born in 1911. At the age of 14 he took up an apprenticeship in the Minton Pottery. In the 1930's he worked at the Royal Crown Derby Pottery in Derby.

Arnold Machin died on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1999.

\*\*\*\*\*

## RECYCLING ...

Many of our great inventions involved a bit of "recycle and reuse".

A good pub trivia question for you : what's the link between Japan's war effort and the laundering of Australian clothing? Answer : when Lance Hill engineered the first Hills Hoist in his backyard in Adelaide, he bought anti-submarine mesh that had been salvaged, at the war's end, from Sydney Harbour. He used it to build the stay rods and to provide the rustproof wire. Thank God Japan didn't restart the war, or Australians would have had to pull apart their washing lines.

Australia's other iconic invention, Victa lawnmower, also involved recycling. The machine was developed by Mervyn Victor Richardson in 1952 - assembled from scrap metal, with billy-cart wheels, and a jam tin used as a petrol tank.

\*\*\* ABOUT \$3 million worth of gold and silver has been found in Switzerland's sewage system. Researchers detected three tonnes of silver and 43kg of gold in treatment plants. The government study found the particles were likely to come from the watchmaking, pharmaceuticals and chemical industries.

## SWAP AND SALE NIGHT, 20th JULY 2017.

Once again a fair crowd turned up and 10 tables were occupied by our eager sellers, all bar one being club members.

For whatever reason a number of regulars didn't join us, but there were another 22 that did come along making a total of 33 in attendance. Most sellers seemed to be pretty busy and there was certainly plenty of material there for the buyers to check out.

As usual this night will be recorded as a pretty good philatelic and social event, Roger kindly supplying a free supper !

Be sure to come along next year.

- Don Catterall, Convenor

## THE CANADIAN COLONIES - HERALDIC FLOWERS ISSUES

In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland were all independent British colonies. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick issued their first stamps in September 1851, and Newfoundland in January 1857. The first stamps for all three colonies were engraved and printed in sheets of 160 by Perkins, Bacon & Co. in London, and a similar design was used for all three. The very pretty design (commonly referred to as the heraldic flowers) featured the rose, shamrock and thistle, representing England, Ireland and Scotland. Interestingly, the stamps are square – those of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were designed in a diamond format, while those of Newfoundland in the conventional format. Stamps for NS and NB were issued in 3p, 6p and 1 shilling (3p per ½ oz. being the domestic rate), while Newfoundland's were 1p and 5p. By 1853, Nova Scotia needed a 1p stamp, and the design was altered to include a Chalon portrait of Victoria in the centre of a conventional format stamp. This was the second stamp in the Empire to feature the Chalon portrait – Canada had issued the first one in 1851.

While the New Brunswick and Newfoundland issues feature a second English rose, those of Nova Scotia have a *mayflower* (the provincial flower) as the fourth flower. Really, all three provinces should have included France's *Fleur-de-lis*, to acknowledge the substantial populations of French settlers.



The paper for the 1851 printings for NS and NB is noticeably blue, apparently due to problems during the wet printing process. In 1857 the first Newfoundland stamp was printed, as was a second printing of all three NS denominations. The paper for these is noticeably whiter.



Both NB and NS adopted decimal currency in 1860, requiring the issue of a new set of stamps. There were some remainders of the pence issue but many were ruined by being stored in damp conditions. Newfoundland adopted decimal currency in 1865, and its new issues marked the end of use of the *heraldic flowers*. Perkins, Bacon gave the NS and NB printing plates to the Canadian government in 1889 and some sheets of reprints were made at that time. These reprints have found their way to collectors.

- Jim MacDougall -

\*\*\*\*\*

## Territorial Dispute "Resolved", 2011

A long-standing territorial dispute between Bangladesh and India over a small island in the Bay of Bengal has been resolved — by a rise in sea level. The uninhabited territory, known to the Indians as New Moore Island and to the Bangladeshis as South Talpatti Island, never extended more than 1.9 meters above sea level. However, satellite images show that the sea has recently submerged it. "What these two countries could not achieve from years of talking has been resolved by global warming," says Professor Sugata Hazra, of Calcutta's Jadavpur University School of Oceanographic Studies.



## NEWCASTLE STAMP AND COIN EXPO, 25th TO 27th MAY 2018

This Expo celebrates the Centenary of the Newcastle Philatelic Society. The expo will consist of a 'half national' exhibition, dealer stalls and opportunities to discuss stamps and meet with friends. A 'half national' exhibition is a national philatelic exhibition, but with only half the number of classes. The other half of the classes will be shown at Canberra in March 2018.

The venue is the Newcastle Showground Exhibition Centre, just near Broadmeadow Railway Station. The layout of the venue, with dealer stands, exhibits and food area, has been designed by Ed Burnard. The venue includes chairs, but not tables. Ed has also checked companies which hire tables, and made a booking. Extra lighting may be needed over the exhibits, again Ed is checking this.

Our secretary John Moore is organising the exhibits. The prospectus is ready to be sent out, with entries closing in February. These exhibits are judged. Entry fees cover the cost of bringing experienced judges to our expo. John has also advised that four international judges will be attending.

Bernard Doherty has updated our banking arrangements (there is a separate expo account), so that entrants can pay by electronic transfer. Tony Walker will be looking after hospitality for our guests.

As for myself, I have circulated details of the expo to dealers and dealer groups, and have booked in 22 dealers to attend. Most have paid \$100 deposit, some have paid the full payment. A list of dealers attending is below, with their stand numbers.

### Dealers attending:

1. Pittwater Philatelics, Sydney (John Pearson). John has the largest stock of any travelling dealer in Australia.
2. Ace Philatelics, Perth (Ian Boulton). Ian runs auctions and also a retail shop.
3. Kenton Philatelics, Perth (Terry Finlayson).
- 4, 5. Renniks, Sydney (Ian Pitt). Ian sells accessories, such as Lighthouse, Gibbons, Dansco, Hagner, Seven Seas.
6. Edith & Herman Oczewaschek, Old Bar. This couple sells all types of small antiques and collectables.
- 7, 8. Pacific Rim Coins, North Sydney.
9. Brisbane Stamps (Troy Sequeira).
10. Town Hall Coins & Collectables, Sydney (Matt Thompson).
11. Pat's Stamps, Perth now Newcastle (Patricia Palmer).
12. Crummie's Stamps & Collectables, Perth (Joe Crum, stamp dealer).
13. David R Byron, stamp dealer, Yeppoon, Qld.
14. Burstamps, Brisbane (Stewart Robbins).
- 15.
16. Richard Juzwin, Melbourne (Richard & Andy Juzwin), the largest non-auction dealer in Australia.
17. Tony Shields, Melbourne, one of the largest stamp dealers in Australia.
18. M&S Coins & Collectables, Maitland (Michelle Bichard).
19. Ham 4 Stamps, Forster (Steve Hamilton).
- 20.
21. Ken Pullen, Bexley, sells many accessories, is Australian agent for Davo products.
22. Phillip Morehouse, Bankstown.
23. AAA Stamps, Central Coast (Steve Burton).
24. Empire Coins (Donald )



Not much has happened (as yet) with regards to souvenirs and supporter packs. We have permission to reproduce the 1947 Newcastle stamps in our publicity, and have prepared a special cachet for centenary events and products.

Of course, we still have a way to go in planning for the expo, but everything is coming together slowly. During the expo we will need lots of help. We will have a stand near the door, where we will sell products and answer questions. This will also serve as a membership desk, where we can ask people about joining us. You don't have to be a collector to enjoy stamps, and the social history that stamps and their uses can tell us.

Don't forget your display in the non-competitive NPS members only section. This is for members who have not shown in the past. Each display is one frame, 16 A4 pages. Standard size for exhibit pages is US letter size (8.5" x 11"), but A4 size paper with 12mm (half an inch in the old measurements) cut off the top or bottom is just as good. Just slide the pages into a plastic sleeve and that's it.

Best wishes, and hope to see you at the Expo,

Greg Laidler, President.



## OUR SOCIETY'S 2017 CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

This year, our Christmas Party will be held at **the SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE, 81 Hanbury Street, in MAYFIELD** (next to the Library), on **FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER**, starting about 6 pm for 6.30pm. Greg Laidler is organising the meat for a barbeque (costs 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 – it's the place where our Society meetings and auctions are held (THE BLACK SPOT ON THE MAP).

Phone GREG if there are any problems – on **4950 0247**, or **TONY WALKER on 0427 480 770**.

Gregory's Map 296, K7/8, or UBD Map 22, P/Q 7/8. 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 2017-2018 festive season !!



\*\*\*\*\*

**TREES AND CO<sup>2</sup>:** AT MAITLAND Library, a "Look Who's Talking" session was held with Professor Tim Flannery, with a beautiful audience of some hundreds. Tim, unsurprisingly, showed huge understanding of the climate threat we face as a result of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Afterwards I said to Tim that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are just the back half of the 'dog' of climate ruin. What has wrecked our Oz climate is we've lost 90 per cent of our forests over 229 years. Forests cool our continent, produce rain clouds, soak up flood-rains, absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, produce oxygen, slow winds and provide wildlife habitat.

Bhutan, for example, has resolved to retain at minimum 70 per cent forest cover, has massive tree-planting campaigns, and are emissions negative, their forests soaking up all the emissions they produce, and more. California has just come out of a five-year drought which saw more than 100 million trees die of drought stress, so less rain clouds will be produced in the future, stressing remaining forests in a downward 'climate death spiral,' presumably.

I asked Tim why on Earth climate scientists like himself never seem to talk about deforestation, only CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The problem is, geniuses are still clearing forests in this country for un-clever jobs and to line pockets. Tim agreed they should talk more about forests, but I am not hopeful. I see clouds cutting trees down every day, because they drop leaves, or feed bats whose poop is messy or other mean, stupidly greedy or just bonehead excuses. You had better start digging your bunker to escape the heat, and maybe practice drinking your own urine - Big Hot Dry coming soon enough to Clodland Oz.

- Les Hutchinson, South Maitland. -

\*\*\*\*\*

**OWEN DAVIS** was recently in Oregon USA for The Great American Eclipse 2017. The Pleasanton Post Office being closed, and wanting to send a postcard home, but not having any stamps, he slipped the card under the Post Office door with two \$1 notes. A bit further along the road, he found Button Willow, and again, put a postcard under the door with some money. Further on again, Weitchpec, he went into the general store to see if they sold stamps, but was offered a stamp from her purse by one of their customers – who was very pleased to receive some cash for it. A couple of other cards were posted in the normal way. AND, all the cards safely reached Wallsend !! Bravo to the US Post Office !

