



## IEWS FROM NOBBY'S

### Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

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

Website : [www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au](http://www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au)

**May 2020** Newsletter No. **192** EDITOR: Jim MacDougall

We meet at **7:30 pm** on the **SECOND THURSDAY** of each month at MAYFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS HALL, cnr Pacific Hwy & Hanbury St, MAYFIELD and each **THIRD WEDNESDAY** at **10:00 am** at STUDIO 48, 48 MACKIE AVE, NEW LAMBTON.

**VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME**

We won't know for some time when the Society can resume its regular Thursday night and Wednesday morning meetings. Once we can know when meetings can resume, we will be able to prepare the schedule of displayers and displays for you all. In the meantime, here is the list of upcoming displays that we had planned before the plague struck:

#### Wednesday Meetings

- TONY WALKER - "Pot Pourri"
- 6 Pages per member
- GREG KORSMAN - "Australian Air Mail: Re-enactments and Anniversaries"
- DON CATTERALL - "Postcards"
- DON RUTHERFORD - "Australian Queen Mother One Penny Stamp"
- ED BURNARD - "Great Britain, for the Last Two Years"
- ERIC BARLOW - "Errors and Flaws on Australian Stamps"
- HOWARD FISHER - To be advised
- JOHN HILL - "Christmas Island"

#### Thursday Meetings

- POPULAR CHOICE COMPETITION - 6 pages starting with the letter 'B'
- RUSSELL GODDARD - "All about Gold"
- DON CATTERALL - Quiz Night
- AGM, Annual Competition, and Annual Awards night
- RON DAVIS - "Ambling Around the Atlantic"
- TIM SCHOFIELD - To be advised

#### Public Events

- AUCTION, May 21 - cancelled
- SWAP AND SALE, July 23 - undecided

*As our well-loved member Don Cox used to say: To have a collection, you first need an accumulation.*

**PRESIDENT'S PIECE**

We live at an unusual time in history. We live during a global pandemic that has not killed thousands of people in Australia. But that came at a price; with self-isolation, social distancing and no unnecessary travel, our lives have become quieter. We have more 'own time'.

Luckily we can fall back on an interest shared by many famous people in the past. US president FDR retreated to his stamp collection at the end of each week, and became engrossed in his collection for several hours. A dealer I once knew told me of a Sydney surgeon who left the hospital on Friday lunch time, travelled to his south coast holiday home, and would still be working on his stamp collection as the sun rose on Saturday morning.

Stamps and stamp collecting have been an escape from the daily grind for many people. While our lives might not have the normal grind at this time, the escape made possible through stamps is still important. Look after your health, especially your mental health.

Looking after your stamps helps look after you. The peace and quiet of this time will be gone all too soon.

Greg Laidler, President

**FROM THE SECRETARY**

I trust that you are all are keeping well during these uncertain times and are keeping yourselves occupied with your hobbies and interests within the limitations that are imposed upon us. Hopefully, it will not be too long before we will be able to get out and about and socialise including a resumption of our meetings.

Whilst our meetings are in recess, thanks to various members I have been emailing out scans of some exhibits that normally would have been shown at the April meeting and a quiz prepared by Don Catterall. If you did not receive these it is because I do not have your email address or you have changed it and not let me know! If this is the case and you wish to be on the list please send me an email to [moore.john@optusnet.com.au](mailto:moore.john@optusnet.com.au). Should you have something you wish to share with others such as items of interest, new acquisitions and so on, send me a scan and some text and I will collate and send out by way of a monthly communication.

Regretfully we have had to make a decision and postpone the Newcastle 2020 exhibition to 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021. With so much uncertainty about freedom of travel and assembly we really had no other choice. I trust that you will be understanding and supportive of this change.

John Moore, Secretary

**Display: SOLOMON ISLANDS – John Gibson**  
**Thurs Feb 13, 2020**

John began collecting Solomon Islands stamps and postal history in 1959 and showed an exceptional display to the 21 members present.

The Solomon Islands form a large archipelago just east of Papua New Guinea. The northern part, including Bougainville Island, was a German protectorate from the 1880s while the southern islands including Guadalcanal became a British protectorate in 1893. By 1900 most of the islands apart from Bougainville were under British control. Australia's main interest in the Solomons (apart from the Blackbirding of Islanders to work in the Queensland cane fields) was the large copra trade that was shipped via Sydney. The area was *The British Solomon Islands Protectorate* until 1975, and after achieving full independence in 1978, became *Solomon Islands*. There was little European settlement before 1900.





The first mail appeared in 1898; mail for England was sent stampless to Sydney where NSW stamps were affixed. John showed us a real rarity: a cover which was only the 2<sup>nd</sup> one ever sent from the Solomons, from Islands Commissioner Charles Woodford. In 1907 the first stamps were issued, the design featuring a large war canoe. These were designed by Commissioner Woodford, and printed in Sydney by W. H. Smith & Co. Smith & Co did an amateurish job, with many different sizes and many mis-perforations occurring (which John showed us). At first, these stamps were not valid for international postage, and NSW stamps had to be affixed (as shown above). In 1908 a new issue was produced to conform with UPU colour guidelines, a similar design but smaller size (done much more professionally by de la Rue). A single KGV definitive issue, starting in 1913, sufficed until 1939 when an attractive KGV pictorial set was issued.

The earliest mail went by ship from the port of Tulagi. The first air mail flight from Tulagi occurred in 1926 but a variety of routes were used in the 1920s and 1930s, e.g. via sea to Sydney then by air, or via sea to New Guinea then by air. John showed covers illustrating practically all of the variations, including some nice *paquebot* cancels via New Guinea.

The Solomons occupied a strategically important location during WW2, which resulted in a large variety of postal activity. At various times mail went to and from USA, New Zealand and Fiji. The Japanese occupied the Solomons in 1942-3 during which time civil mail was stopped, and we saw a post card sent to Japan by a Japanese soldier. Another novelty was the 'coast watcher' covers – mail sent by civilians whose job it was to man coastal posts and watch for enemy ships and planes.

Routine airmail direct from the Solomon Islands only began in the early 1950s. For such a tiny population, this country has a remarkably rich postal history.

## Auction Report Thurs Feb 20, 2020

This was a good Auction with a decent crowd and 38 keen bidders marking their cards. There were 19 vendors who provided 368 lots and 155 lots sold making 42%. Almost 40 lots came from the late Gordon Shearer's collection, thus helping to fund our next Exhibition. It is now planned to take place in October next year – whatever you do, don't miss it !

Total sales were a healthy \$1661 and as always, late sales kept us busy. Highest sale was \$63, paid for a stockbook full of MUH Australian Decimals, obviously priced to sell. Further similar lots from this same vendor sold for \$42, \$32 and \$30 respectively. Next came an early World collection with masses of useful stamps and some rarities spotted. Then \$42 was paid for a very nice Victoria State classic whilst similar State lots sold for \$40, \$32 and \$30, all after some quite lively bidding. A QE2 5d Booklet pane lot also fetched a surprising \$42. Buy of the Night at \$40 was a Collection of KGV Flaws on Display pages ex Laurie Williams. He won our club night with that one many, many years ago. Very popular in this auction were pre-loved Hagners and also packs of Hawid mounts, all bound for good use.

Our thanks as always go to Steve Burton our auctioneer and to the working team who make it all happen so smoothly. Thanks also to all the vendors and most certainly to the buyers. I hope to see you at our next auction on a date to be advised.

Don Catterall.  
Auction Convenor 49435639

## Exhibition Success!

John Moore has been doing the Society proud lately. He showed two well received displays: **Australian Living Together** and **1989-1991 Sporting Definitives** at the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria mid-February. He entered two postcard exhibits in the *EPAEX 2020 Exhibition* in Dubai and both scored points

equal to a Large Vermeil at Australia National level. Lastly, John entered a new exhibit **British East Africa Postal Stationery** at the biennial *Canberra Stampshow 2020* in March where it scored a Vermeil medal. John was invited to speak about his exhibit at the frames during the Sunday feedback. Very well done, John.

## Display : MODERN NEW ZEALAND – Russell Goddard Wed Feb 19, 2020



Russell's display was a random selection of New Zealand issues covering about 40 years. It did not follow normal competitive display rules, but was designed to show the diversity of the New Zealand issuing policy. The display was modified to show parts of any particular issue rather than full issues.

He included Christmas stamps, roses, moths, fish, Royal Doulton pottery, a round Kiwi stamp, and coil stamps. A coil stamp is a type of postage stamp sold in strips one stamp wide. The name derives from the long strips coiled into rolls; early coil stamps were manufactured from strips of stamps pasted together. For example, a pane of 100 stamps arranged as 10 rows of 10 stamps would be cut apart to make 10 strips. Typically, every 10<sup>th</sup> stamp of one strip would be pasted to the 1<sup>st</sup> stamp of the next strip, yielding a 100 stamp strip, able to be used in a dispensing machine.



I was most impressed with the way Russell dealt with the N. Z. Maoris' use of weapons. I quote :

“Maori weapons, such as the Wahaika, were very useful because of the constant wars between the different Maori tribes over food and land. The ones who would lose the battle would usually end up being eaten or decapitated. Their heads would be used as trophies. The Kotiate is a weapon of violin shape, very useful on the battlefield and many Maori chiefs would hold them during their speeches. “Kotiate’ means “to cut liver”. It is believed to have been used to pull on intestines and organs and used as a device to disarm the enemy”.



The historical Treaty of Waitangi was included with a mini-sheet commemorating the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which resulted in peace between the Maori and the “white people”. Russell had looked at the full sets of stamps showing scenes around New Zealand, and decided that it “looked like a travelogue”, so the only scenes he showed were Hauraki Gulf and Mount Taranaki.

Also shown was the last busy weekend at Christchurch's Wigram Airfield before it was ploughed up and turned into a housing development. This was where Sir Charles Kingsford Smith landed after completing the first trans-Tasman crossing back in 1928. And there was a First Official Airmail cover, 11<sup>th</sup> April 1934, from Charles Ulm and his “Faith in Australia”

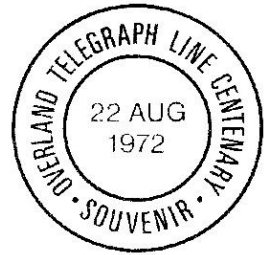
But the pick of the display, I thought, was the Wackiest Letter Boxes issue of September 1996, and the wooden post card (yes, wood!) with a kiwi stamp on it. Really unusual !



- RJD -

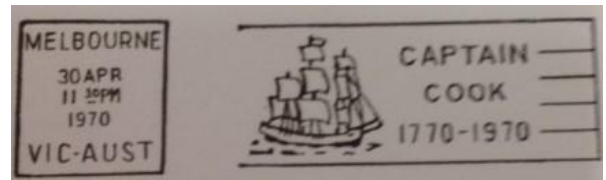
**Display: SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS: COMMEMORATIVE TYPES USED ACROSS AUSTRALIA – Greg Laidler  
Thurs Mar 12, 2020**

Having enjoyed Greg's display of Australian slogan cancellations last year, I was looking forward to this follow-up display. Well, I wasn't disappointed. The use of slogans as cancellations began almost immediately after Australia issued its first stamps. Quite naturally, WW1 provided opportunity for patriotic messages, such as *Eligibles Enlist* or *Help Repatriation Buy War Savings Certificates*. These early cancels were applied by a roller which applied 2 copies of the slogan on the width of a typical letter. (Incidentally, these rollers contained a circular date stamp which had to be removed and changed every day!) Rollers produced very attractive cancels but were replaced in the 1920s by single strike machines.



Many slogans either publicised or commemorated important events. So the *Melbourne Olympics* in 1956 and the *Commonwealth Games* in Perth in 1962 were promoted, along with the *British Empire Exhibition* in London 1924. And we celebrated the *Centenary of Queensland* in 1959, the *Bicentenary of Cook's Exploration* in 1970 and the *Centenary of the Overland Telegraph* in 1972. As well, The Post Office urged us to *Eat Apples for Health*, *Use Seat Belts* and *Observe Sunday* (this turned out to be unconstitutional!). Before WW2, in 1939, we were told to *Keep Australia Safe Enlist Now*, during the War we were told *Don't Write About Ships* while after the war we were told to *Buy Peace Bonds*.

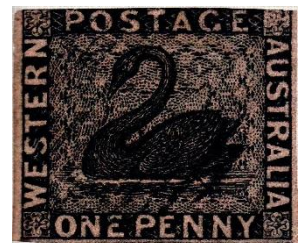
The covers, cancellations and slogans we saw were all in excellent condition, and the display was beautifully presented with lots of interesting accompanying information. Greg's process of scanning and enhancing to make the slogan clearer was an excellent added feature.



He reminded us that other countries used slogan cancels as well by showing us two nice Canadian flag cancels for the Coronation of King George VI, which Australia did not commemorate! The display finished with a number of modern paid advertising slogans from companies such as *Kellogg's*, *Ford* and *Coca Cola*. The slogans in this display reflect both the postal history and social history of Australia.

**Empire Classics**

In 1854, four years after New South Wales and Victoria issued their first postage stamps, Western Australia climbed on the bandwagon. Their own 'penny black' is a true classic (printed by Perkins, Bacon who printed the original penny black). The young colony departed from the custom of portraying the Queen, opting instead for the black swan for the design. In fact, the colonial legislature passed a law decreeing that all postage stamps issued in the colony should picture a swan, and this peculiar rule was obeyed until the 1902 issue,



two years after Federation! Perkins, Bacon shipped the printing plates, ink and paper to Perth along with the first batch of stamps. It was decided locally to print additional values – 4d and 1 shilling. The local production of the 4d resulted in a myriad of plate errors and variations, including the famous inverted-frame rarity, shown here. Later designs of swan stamps for the colony were printed in London by Perkin, Bacon and by De La Rue.

The exhibition that our Society so successfully hosted in May 2018 attracted high quality entrants and judges from overseas. Robert Zeigler, who had shortly before been elected President of the American Philatelic Society was the Commissioner for entries from USA as well as a judge. I thought our members would like to hear that Zeigler was impressed both with our show and his visit to Australia. He wrote the following in their Society's monthly magazine *American Philatelist* of September 2018 about his experience in Australia. Of course, it is written for an American audience.

## JUDGING IN THE LAND OF OZ

### Robert Zeigler, President of the American Philatelic Society

I was fortunate to be a commissioner to a "Half-National" show in Newcastle, Australia this past month. "Commissioners" do not get commissions. Far from it. Rather we are charged with carrying exhibits to wherever a foreign stamp show happens to be, make sure they are properly mounted in the display, and get back to their owners in the U.S. We are also invited to act as judges of the show.

APF-sanctioned shows (as opposed to local or regional stamp shows) can be "National" or "Half-National" depending on whether all classes of exhibits, or only some, are permitted. In this particular show in Newcastle, a city of about 350,000 people on the east coast of Australia 100 miles north of Sydney, exhibit classes included Postal History, Postal Stationery, Revenues, Aerophilately and Astrophilately, Polar Philately, and Picture Postcards. (The other Half-National, held earlier in the year in Canberra, included Traditional and the remaining categories.)

Australia involves a long flight from most places, around 19 hours of flight time from eastern U.S. to Sydney, and the 14-hour time difference makes communication difficult. But it is worth it to go, whether as a tourist or as a philatelist. The people are friendly to Americans and curious, especially about our current political scene.



The show was well organised by David Figg and the committee, and John Moore, president of the Australian Philatelic Federation led the jury proceedings. The jury was subdivided FIP-style into teams of three. I had the pleasure of serving with two veteran Australian jurors, David Ingle 'Dingle' Smith and David Collyer. Both were very knowledgeable and easy with whom to get along.

The various subgroups of the jury each judged their portion of the show, using the FIP international points system. Then the entire jury convened and each team reported their scores. The jury then briefly reviewed each other's work and scoring at the frames, and then there was a challenge opportunity. (I felt like a curmudgeon, as I was the only person to challenge anything.) The top jurors, known as the Presidium, then reviewed the challenge, going back to frames and consulting among themselves. I was grateful that they moved the exhibit in question up one level.

In the U.S., top awards are nominated by the jury and voted on by the entire jury. Here, the Presidium determined a number of the special awards without debate or further input.



Following the Newcastle show a dealer couple, Michael and Antonia (Toni) Cousens from Sydney, invited me on a full-day tour of their city, including the famous beaches (Bondi and several others), a National Park, many suburbs, the cliff-bound gateway to Sydney Harbour, and many other sights. It was a truly generous and kind thing to do for me, essentially a complete stranger. But Australians, or at least the great majority that I have met, are like that. I was lucky to meet a few of them.

## WHERE IT ALL BEGAN: AUSTRALIA'S FIRST POSTMASTER

In the earliest days of the settlement of New South Wales, getting letters to and from England was a haphazard process, depending on the individual ships' captains. They decided their own fees and were often unreliable in actually delivering the mail. Delivering letters and parcels domestically was somewhat more reliable, but still depended on erratic privately-run delivery services with no security. The situation finally got to the point in 1809 where the Lieutenant-Governor Joseph Foveaux made the decision to appoint someone to oversee a mail service. The following notice appeared in the *Sydney Gazette* of April 30, 1809 informing the public of the decision:

*Complaints having been made to the Lieutenant-Governor, that numerous Frauds have been committed by individuals repairing on board Ships, on their arrival at this Port, and personating others, by which they have obtained possession of Letters and Parcels to the great injury of those for whom they were intended, the Lieutenant-Governor, in order to prevent the practice of such Frauds in the future, has been pleased to establish an Office, at which all Parcels and Letters addressed to the Inhabitants of this Colony shall be deposited, previous to their distribution: Which Office shall be under the direction of Mr Isaac Nichols (Assistant to the Naval officer), who has entered into Security for the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in him.*

This decree effectively established the government postal service with Isaac Nichols as first postmaster. Nichols was a Second Fleet convict who had served out his seven year sentence and very quickly become a respectable businessman, owning a shipbuilding business and an inn. Respected by the authorities, he had been appointed superintendent of public works. Although run almost as a private monopoly, the postal service under Nichols was set on a solid path for the future.

The stamp, celebrating 150 years since the establishment of the postal service, imagines Isaac Nichols boarding a ship. It is an artist's impression - no actual likeness of Nichols exists.



## ANNE FRANK: THE GOLDEN GIRL

The Dutch postal service, PostNL, has created a wonderful collectible, with this beautiful stamp actually made of gold. Only 1500 copies were created, and is one of a series of four stamps commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII.



On the stamp is a photograph of the famous 12-year-old Dutch Jewish girl Anne Frank who lived in hiding from 1942 to 1944 along with her family, to avoid capture during the Holocaust. Although she was eventually captured and killed in a concentration camp, the journal she kept has become the well-known book *The Diary of a Young Girl*. Her name has become synonymous with the horrors of persecution. Anne wrote many of the entries in her diary to an imaginary friend named Kitty, and across the bottom of the stamp is the inscription in her own handwriting 'Lieve Kitty' (Dear Kitty).

### *Today's Website*

<http://www.philatelicedatabase.com> This site is dangerous! You can easily end up spending too many hours here. Started by two Australians in 2007 but international in scope, this site contains articles, blogs, a glossary, maps, history and much, much more from a wide variety of sources. On the home page, just go to the *Select Category* button on the right, and you are off and running. But if you find yourself wasting too much time here, don't blame me!

### Coronatime Quiz

Prepared by Don Catterall



To give you some philatelic and trivial entertainment during our isolation we are offering a short quiz. Why not first see how you go without using any reference material, as we do at our quiz night. Hopefully, this will arouse your interest enough and inspire you to complete the quiz using any means you wish.

Email your completed answers to [margdon55@hotmail.com](mailto:margdon55@hotmail.com). A prize will be awarded for the highest score on resumption of meetings.

1. How was this lady known before becoming Queen ?  
Full name of the Artist of her image ?  
How many Oz stamp issuing authorities used this image ?
2. What Flag is this ?  
Who uses it ?  
Name the smallest Star.
3. Who painted this picture ?  
Name the mountain.  
Where is it Located ?
4. Name this Geographical Feature.  
On which of New Zealand's Islands is it ?  
Who named it ?
5. What event does this stamp portray ?  
What does the stamp Commemorate ?  
How many other times has this sport been featured on OZ stamps ? (No tiny portrayals).
6. Why are these ladies getting all excited ?  
How was the movement known ?  
In what year in Oz did they first achieve some satisfaction ?
7. What is the name of this painting ?  
Name the Artist.  
What does this Issue Commemorate ?
8. What does this stamp depict ?  
Who was the British Home Secretary at that time ?  
What year was this stamp issued ?
9. What Scene is depicted here ?  
How many of these rock formations can be seen here today ?  
Title of this set of stamps ?
10. What is this place.  
Where is it ?  
Who is it named after ?

Answers will also be posted in the next Newsletter.