



VIEWS FROM NOBBY'S

Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

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

Website : www.newcastlephilatelicociety.org.au

February 2021 Newsletter 196 EDITOR: Jim MacDougall

We meet at **2:00** on the **SECOND THURSDAY** and the **2:00** on the **THIRD WEDNESDAY** of each month at **Pasterfield Centre**, Horizon Drive, Cameron Park

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

2021 MEETING VENUE

THE PASTERFIELD CENTRE

Horizon Drive, Cameron Park

Wednesday Meetings

Feb 17 - HOWARD FISHER: *Poland WW2, Conifers and related plants; Czechoslovakia Covers*

Mar 17 - RON DAVIS: *Ambling Around the Arctic Ocean*

Apr 21 - ROSS ZIMMERMAN: *Convict Settlements on Norfolk Island*

May 19 - ROGER EGGLETON: *Calgary Stampede*

June 16 - WARREN OLIVER: *Pre-1850 Pre-stamped NSW Mail*

July 21 - JOHN EDWARDS: *A Doctor in Scotland*

Thursday Meetings

Feb 11 - JOHN MOORE: *Newcastle Philatelic Society Historic Photographs and other Memorabilia*

Mar 11 - BOB GLENDENNING: *Canberra to the Capital & KGVII Multiples*

Apr 8 - *Popular Choice letter 'C'*

May 13 - RUSSELL GODDARD: *All about Gold*

June 10 - RON. DAVIS: *British Offshore Islands*

July 8 - JOHN HILL: *Cocos Islands Postal History*

Popular Choice Competition - Letter 'C'

Get started now on preparing an entry (or two) on any philatelic topic beginning with the letter 'C', for the April main meeting. We are doing things a bit differently this time; read Greg's explanation.

Cancelled! - We had booked tables at the Antique and Collectables Fair scheduled for Mar 20-21 this year. However it has been cancelled because of Covid. We will have to wait until next year for the next Fair.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

The new year is underway, and the number of visitors attending our meetings is higher than this time last year. At the first committee meeting for the year, some important decisions were made.

Meetings – we currently have two meetings per month, at the same time and same venue. To avoid confusion, we have re-named them:

- Thursday, the usual monthly meeting, is now the *Thursday main meeting*. It will remain as having minutes, general business, impromptu display, raffle and door prize, and a classy display of about 60 pages.
- Wednesday, the old 'daytime' meeting, is now the *Wednesday Social Activity*. It will become more of a social gathering, with a longer afternoon tea and shorter displays. No minutes, no formality, lots of member interaction.

At the April Main Meeting the activity for the afternoon is the club competition, for 6 pages of a topic starting with the letter **C**. Previously there has been just one winner, but for April members will be judging the entries in three classes:

- Classic Philately, or traditional philately, based on criteria used in exhibitions.
- Presentation and Arrangement.
- Interesting theme and content.

Each member will be given a voting paper with these 3 categories, and a place to write the number of the entry that they consider is the best in that category. The prize has not changed – still a cardboard certificate and a warm feeling inside. However, each member will be limited to two entries.

The Club Auction is still on hold. There is some confusion about whether we can hold an auction at our new location, but the staff who look after the venue are seeking clarification.

The silent auction we have had at some main monthly meetings is being enlarged. You may know that the society is donated many stamps, stockbooks, sheets and albums. Some of these are from deceased estates. With Covid we cannot sell them in auction. At the next main monthly meeting we will have a small auction in which we will sell some of this material to our members. There will be a wide range of material offered, enough to suit the tastes of every collector.

The material offered for auction (about 20 to 30 lots) will be displayed at a table at the side of the room, you can inspect all items before the meeting. During the meeting the lots will be covered. At the end of the meeting, the cover is removed. Any items that you would like to bid on, tick the description. After 10 to 15 minutes each lot is auctioned, then sold to the highest bidder. Pay the bagman (money collector) and the lot is yours. Make an offer on any unsold lots – it all has to go! All bidding will be in \$1 increments. No commission, no other charges, all money goes to our society to keep us viable. Please inspect carefully, as we cannot refund or exchange lots.

What to do:

- Get started on your 6 pages of letter **C**.
- Bring your spare coins to the auction at the main monthly meeting, Thursday 11 February, 2pm. Displayer is John Moore, with memorabilia outlining the history of the Newcastle Philatelic Society.
- Write the date Wednesday 17 February, for the Wednesday Social Activity. Displayer is Howard Fisher.

I hope to see you at a meeting very soon. Happy collecting, stay safe and take care,

Greg Laidler, President

FROM THE SECRETARY

In many ways it is good to see 2020 behind us with hopes that 2021 will be a more normal year. Our Wednesday Social Activity and Thursday Main Meetings are held in our new meeting venue – the Pasterfield Centre, Horizon Drive, Cameron Park. Meetings now commence at 2.00pm. Tea and Coffee is

now available after the conclusion of our meetings, with cake and biscuits being available when Covid 19 guidelines permit. Hopefully we will be able to hold our full auction activities when venue requirements and Covid 19 restrictions permit. Whilst we still have 6 months to run with our current syllabus, nevertheless it is time to start planning our 2021/22 programme. All suggestions and offers considered! Keep safe and well.

John Moore, Secretary

ERIC BARLOW'S MASTERPIECE !!

This spectacular poster was made by Eric Barlow and is completely covered with Australian stamps. We showed a picture of this in an earlier *Views From Nobby's* while it was still under construction; here is the completed version. Close examination shows that less than a dozen different stamps have been used, mostly early QEII issues (now we know why Eric kept buying those big bags of used stamps at the auctions!). This poster measures nearly 2 m. wide and 1½ high, and must have taken Eric many, many hours to complete. We're glad to see the finished product again – well done, Eric!



Name Badges for Members

Now that we have resumed regular meetings, it is time to make sure we all have NPS name badges. A sample is shown here. These are especially helpful for visitors and newer members of the Society. Equally, for those of us who are long term members of the Society, we need some help to learn and remember the names of our newer members, so it is important and helpful for them to also have name badges, and wear them at all our meetings.



I will be managing a sign-up sheet for everyone requiring a badge. The aim will be to get a comprehensive list for a bulk order, to minimise overall cost Badges will probably cost under \$10. If you prefer to request your name badge by e-mail, please send me your name and clip style (standard pin; clip and pin; or magnet clip) — [roger@ilstu.edu] Anyone needing a second badge, in case an earlier badge has been misplaced, or a different clip style is required, can also add their name to the sign-up sheet. Thanks for supporting this socially friendly initiative.

Roger E.

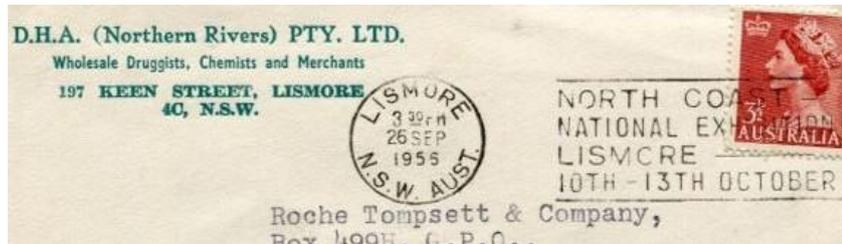
Display: COMMEMORATIVE SLOGAN POSTMARKS USED IN NSW

Greg Laidler

Thurs Nov 12, 2020

Greg has been collecting slogans for more than 40 years and now seems to have an inexhaustible collection. He has already shown us several displays and this latest, NSW slogans, showed us lots of interesting new material. Machine cancellation began in 1904 and slogans on war themes began during WWI; the cancellations were usually applied using a two inch roller.

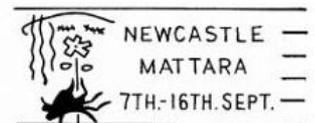
Some slogans promoted the town, such as *Manly – A South Pacific Playground* and *Parramatta – the Cradle City*. There was even a NSW slogan promoting New Zealand! Others promoted an event, such as the Bathurst races or the opening of the Sydney Harbour bridge. The one shown here was used for a few weeks each year over a period of 10 years. The *Country Swimming Championships* held in Maitland was advertised as was *Spastic Centre week*, although this one was soon withdrawn since the term was considered offensive.



Local exhibitions or festivals were a popular theme. There were nice covers advertising the *Orange Cherry Blossom Festival*, *Port Macquarie's Carnival of the Pines*, and *Lismore's annual exhibition*, shown here. The *Bowral Tulip Festival* slogan was used

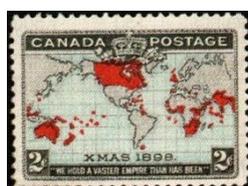
for a couple of weeks each year for at least 13 years and Greg had them all. Closer to home, we saw several versions of the slogans for Newcastle's *Mattara* festival, used over a period of more than 20 years.

The PMG was looking after our welfare with admonishments such as *Use Safety Belts* and *Use Electricity Safely*. Finally, *Rockdale's 1960 Stamp Show* had its own slogan used only for 2 weeks and only in Rockdale post office (and Greg had an example)! Thanks to Greg for another entertaining display.



The First Christmas Stamp – Yes or No ?

Yes, yes, I know - Christmas has come and gone. But I didn't think of this topic in time to include it in the last *Views from Nobby's*, so here it is now. In 1898, Canada issued a stamp featuring a Mercator map of the world on which all British possessions are coloured red. Many regard it as a Christmas stamp since it has "XMAS 1898" printed clearly on it. Aside from the surprisingly informal use of the abbreviation 'Xmas' (apparently this abbreviation was used as far back as Anglo-Saxon times 900 years ago!), the purpose of the stamp was to celebrate the establishment of penny postage in the British Empire.



The stamp was the product of Postmaster-General Sir William Muloch. For some time there had been agitation in various British colonies for cheaper postal rates to and from Britain. In 1890, the 50th anniversary of Penny Postage in Great Britain stimulated public interest in the issue and finally in July, 1898, an Imperial Conference on postage rates was held in London. Muloch advocated strongly for a uniform penny postage rate for the colonies and the scheme was adopted at the 1898 conference, despite New Zealand and the Australian colonies objecting. The initial participants were Great Britain, Canada, Newfoundland, Cape Colony and Natal and some other colonies joined later. A proposal suggesting fixing a uniform rate for the whole of the British Empire was also discussed but no rate could be settled on.



As chief Canadian proponent of the adoption of Imperial Penny Postage, William Muloch decided to stimulate interest in the event by issuing a special postage stamp at the new rate (the Canadian equivalent of 1 penny was 2 cents) at the same time emphasizing the vast extent of the British Empire. The agreement was to take effect on Christmas Day of 1898, hence the inscription on the stamp. The inscription 'we hold a vaster empire than has been' is a line from the poem *A Song of Empire* written by

Welsh poet Sir William Morris for Victoria's Jubilee in 1897.

Mulloch made a big impact in his 10 years as Postmaster-General. He modernised the bureaucratic, money-losing Post Office. He put an end to the 27 years of the "Small Queens" with the spectacular Diamond Jubilee issue of 1897 and introduced an attractive new Queen Victoria definitive set shortly after. Part of his responsibility was overseeing the establishment of trans-Atlantic radio transmission in 1902, and the undersea telegraph cable to Australia and New Zealand in 1901. He was Canada's representative at the opening of Australia's Parliament in 1901. In his 10 years as Postmaster-General, he had turned the Post Office into a profitable business. After retiring from politics Muloch went on to serve as Chief Justice of Ontario for many years.

William Mulock closely supervised the design and production of the 1898 stamp. It is noteworthy for several reasons. It is the first stamp issued by Canada since its formation in 1867 to picture anything other than a portrait of the Queen. Also, it is Canada's first multi-coloured stamp. To achieve this, the black was engraved and the red and blue colours added by typography. You can clearly see that the colours often are not exactly where they should be. Four main blue colours are catalogued (shown here), along with many other shades. The stamp on the cover shown here is not one of these. This is the commonly occurring 'muddy water' variety whose colour is due to oxidation. Even though less than 20,000,000 were printed, a large number of re-touches, re-entries and varieties occur.

Display: *COCONUTS AS AN OPEN EXHIBIT* - John Moore

Dec 10 2020

It was certainly different ! John had previously displayed part of his *Coconut - The Palm of Life* collection as a normal thematic display, shown in Newcastle and also in Canberra many years ago. But, with an open display, all sorts of material are valid - up to 50% non-philatelic material. And John has taken full advantage of that, with many advertisements, a packet of shredded coconut, newspaper articles, bank notes, stereo cards, matchbox labels, a tram ticket, luggage labels, coconut filter cigarettes and a sunscreen sachet. He commented on, but didn't have, a watch with a coconut face, and a condom with a coconut scent!! Possibly the largest item was a car registration plate from American Samoa



2010. The earliest item was dated 1642 – a page out of an encyclopaedia printed in Holland, showing coconut palms.

To get us in the right mood, John passed around a husked coconut (courtesy of the local supermarket, which had lots of coconut items), and a tube of coconut based ointment, smelled by all.

A lot of John's display was unsuitable for A4 pages, so he used A3-sized pages instead. On these he had stamps and postcards and "stuff" from 55 different countries, mostly in Africa and the Pacific Islands, but also including Mauritius, Anguilla, Saint Vincent, Saint Lucia, the Maldives, and Vietnam. These mainly showed coconut trees, but also showed the picking and husking of the nuts, use of the palm leaves, and the nuts themselves. He had photos of a raincoat and body armour made from coconut palm leaves. And he had advertisements for the vegetable shortening, Copha, which is hydrogenated coconut oil. Stamps from Cabo Verde displayed many crafty uses for coconuts, and Thailand showed several items but especially a grasshopper made from a coconut leaf – very clever!



With coconuts being known and grown in different parts of the world, there are many different words used for the various parts of the nut, the tree, the fibre and the copra. In Portuguese, "coconut" means "monkey head". In Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, it means "eel's head".



Many of the coconut palms were shown typically leaning towards the water – almost toppling over – but there were many other sorts of palms also included in John's display – Date, Kentia, Bamboo, Areca, Fan, Cane, Bangalow, Alexandra and Canary Island Palms. As if coconut palms weren't enough.

- R.J.D.

Display: NEW ZEALAND ALTERNATIVE POSTS - Ed Burnard Wed, Nov 18 2020

While most of us are used to having parcels delivered by various private courier services, we still expect ordinary letter mail to come courtesy of Australia Post. We might feel different if we lived in New Zealand. The Postal Services Act of 1998 removed NZ Post's monopoly on letter mail, opening the door to competition. As a result a large number of companies have sprung up to take advantage. Some have failed, some are small local operators, but there are at least ten alternate postal services that are significant on national and even international scale. They generally charge lower rates than NZ Post.



Most of these operators collect and sort their own mail but many have discovered that rather than deliver their own mail, it's cheaper to contract NZ Post to do the deliveries for them. Shown here are post boxes for two companies, *DX Mail* and *National Mail*.



These companies issued their own stamps, many of which are well-produced and attractive (providing a new collecting interest for philatelists). For example, *Pete's Post* has issued at least 450 different stamps.

NZ Post has attempted to counter the popularity of the private services by introducing *Commercial Advertising Labels*, where a business would pay NZ Post to print sheets of labels advertising the business that would be used as stamps on its mail. These have proven to be highly collectible.

Ed showed us a lovely collection of stamps (including some full sheets), covers and other material from 10 of these private providers, along with excellent descriptive notes.

CHILE - THE POST OFFICE PRINTINGS 1857 - 1865

The Chilean Post Office started printing the 5 centavo stamp using Perkins Bacon's plates and over the years made about twenty-two deliveries totalling 32,000 sheets using paper supplied with the original order.

The colour selected was pale red- *Catalogo Especializado* lists nine principal shade groups, ranging from pale pink to an intense red, even orange, but when looked at closely there are actually more shades than printings! How do we explain this anomaly?



- A) It was customary for the printer to mix his own inks and he could not, as we do today, order a specific stock number for the colour and know that he will get exactly the same shade. This alone will explain some of the shade varieties.
- B) Did the printer always work exactly to the formula and use correct the correct proportions of oil and colour?
- C) If the printer took a break, say for lunch or overnight, the colour would tend to separate from the oil and if not thoroughly mixed would give a different shade when work. Evaporation in the hot Santiago summer could also have played a part.

- Gordon Gibbons

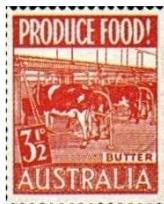
Display: ERRORS AND FLAWS ON AUSTRALIAN STAMPS

Eric Barlow

Wed, Jan 20 2021

It was a fact of life for the earlier printing methods that flaws and errors would occur. Eric's display gave us a lesson on the wide variety of kinds of flaws that can be seen if you look closely enough at the stamp. His examples dealt much more with the minor printing differences that can appear rather than errors in the creation of the design (such as misspelled words or the wrong person's picture appearing on the stamp).

There seemed to be an endless number of things that could go wrong with engraved printing plates. Damage, dirt and plain wear and tear can all produce tiny flaws. Uneven distribution of ink can be a problem, as can occasional ink spots appearing where they shouldn't. The example shown here is the 3½



1953 issue; on the left is the correct printing and the right-hand one shows a re-touch making a heavier line. Eric said there were at least 12 different variations of this particular flaw.



A different kind of flaw is shown in the 1942 King George 3½d stamp shown here. On the left is the 'normal' stamp; the stamp on the right shows much lighter shading lines (making the face look whiter). Eric did us the service of showing each flaw side-by-side with an unflawed stamp for comparison and all his images were enlarged to make them easier for us to see. He also showed us a handy low-cost microscope he uses to search for flaws that are hard to see with the

naked eye.

Eric has spent hours looking over thousands of stamps to find this extensive collection, and the 18 Society members present appreciated the work he has put into compiling it. More modern printing methods adopted in the 1970s and 1980s have greatly reduced the amount of variation in the finished product. We saw fine engraved lines where there should have been heavier ones, and vice-versa. We saw background lines that were too light or broken or missing altogether. We saw missing parts of letters and extra curls in the Queen's hair! Most of these irregularities are listed in the specialist catalogues, but almost certainly there are more to be discovered.

POPULAR CHOICE COMPETITION – LETTER ‘B’

Thurs Jan 14

The annual ‘Letter’ popular choice competition was a tremendous success this year. Held over from 2020 due to the Covid crisis, members excelled themselves with effort when finally able to participate. A total of 18 exhibits were entered from 12 different members, the best for quite a few years. As usual, members were inventive in coming up with a wide range of topics. The overall quality was excellent, making for a very entertaining afternoon for the 16 members in attendance. Ed Burnard was the winner, with Ross Zimmerman the runner-up. Here are the entries:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| John Pugsley | <i>Black and Blue</i> |
| Greg Laidler | <i>William Birdwood</i> |
| Tony Walker | <i>North Borneo QE2</i> |
| Tony Walker | <i>Brunei 1895 Locacs</i> |
| Tony Walker | <i>Belgian Congo</i> |
| Russell Goddard | <i>Birds (Owls)</i> |
| Russell Goddard | <i>Bridges</i> |
| Russell Goddard | <i>Bag Labels, Aus Post</i> |
| Russell Goddard | <i>Booklets 2020</i> |
| Ed Burnard | <i>Bishop Marks</i> |
| Don Rutherford | <i>Business Reply Envelopes</i> |
| Don Rutherford | <i>Broken Hill</i> |
| Don Catterall | <i>Broken Hill</i> |
| Carol Davis | <i>Bush Poets and their Ballads</i> |
| Ross Zimmerman | <i>Banksia</i> |
| Jim MacDougall | <i>New Brunswick</i> |
| Ron Davis | <i>Balloons and Blimps</i> |
| Roger Eggleton | <i>The Letter ‘B’</i> |

The Illustrated London News for 1850

Post Office News



June 15th – Blue Titmouse’s nest in a letter box near Hornchurch – The penny postage having greatly increased the bulk as well as the number of postal communications, the apertures through which the letters are delivered have been proportionately enlarged; and in this case it has facilitated a strange departure from the general rule.

Withinside the door of the Post Office at Squirrels Heath near Hornchurch, a pair of those beautiful birds, the Blue Titmouse, having entered by the orifice made for the posting of letters, have contrived to carry therein an incredible mass of materials for nidification. The hen has sat with her eggs despite up to 30 letters and packets having been removed from around her; all ten eggs have hatched, and at the date of our Correspondent’s letter, this moderate family were expected to come out into the feathered world in a few days.” (ET)

Empire Classics



The first issue of NSW certainly deserves to be called a classic. Issued in 1858, they are distinctive for *not* featuring a portrait of Queen Victoria, being the first pictorial stamp in the world and for being printed in the colony, not by a London printer. The design, based on the Great Seal of the Colony shows the personification of the country welcoming new settlers, with a scene of the town behind. The inscription around the outside literally means ‘seal of New South Wales’ and under the picture is the old motto of the colony *Sic fortis Etruria crevit* (‘thus Etruria grew in power’ a quote from Virgil). Issued in 1p, 2p and 3p, these stamps became known as the ‘Sydney Views’. a term apparently first used by Sir Daniel Cooper, president of the London Philatelic Society at a meeting in 1869.



Today’s Website The Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington is well worth a visit. Although we can’t physically visit now, we can still enjoy it riches. It has a very extensive website which includes many of its past exhibitions, links to other interesting sites, and much more. Check it out:

<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/>