



IEWS FROM NOBBY'S

Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

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

Website : www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au

May 2021 Newsletter 197 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

Do you want colour?

Views from Nobby's looks *much much* better in colour and we would love to be able to send everyone a colour copy, but sadly the cost of colour photocopying is prohibitive. However, you can still have a colour copy. Just go to the Society website <http://newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au/> and choose the Newsletters "Views From Nobby's" tab. You can see all the Newsletters from the last 5 years – all in glorious colour. If you have a colour printer you can print your own copy.

Thursday Regular Monthly Meetings

- May 13 – RUSSELL GODDARD: *All about Gold*
- June 10 – RON. DAVIS: *British Offshore Islands*
- July 8 – George Kuszelyk – *Poland 1918 Overprints*
- August 12 – AGM and *Annual Club Competition*
- September 9 – JOHN HILL: *Cocos Islands Postal History*

Wednesday Social Meetings

- May 19 – JOHN MOORE: *Gilbert and Ellice Islands – Crown Colony to Independence*
- June 16 – WARREN OLIVER: *Pre-1850 Pre-stamped NSW Mail*
- July 21 – JOHN EDWARDS: *A Doctor in Scotland*
- August 18 – ROGER EGGLETON: *Calgary Stampede*
- September 1 – ED BURNARD: *Great Britain – the last two years*
- October 20 – SANDRA BAKER: *To Be Advised*
- November 17 – JOHN HILL: *Christmas Island*

Wallsend Stamp Fair

Yes, it's been up and running in a reduced format for a couple of months after a long shutdown due to Covid. Now that restrictions are eased we expect it to be back closer to normal. As usual it will be held at the **Pioneer Hall** in Wallsend on the **3rd Sunday of each month** from 10:00 to 3:00. So look for the next ones on **May 16, June 20 and July 18**.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Covid has caused havoc in Australia and across the world. Here in Newcastle we have been very lucky, which has allowed our philatelic society to re-commence meetings. But it is different to the old Society – new venue, new meeting times, but still with the same friendliness and focus on collectors.

Our society hosted its first Swap & Sale Night since lockdown last year. The night saw 40 collectors attending, with many items going to new owners. But our rush to return to normal must be slow and careful, and we must make sure that we do not get ahead of the relaxation of covid regulations. We must be more patient.

As our wider society returns to normal, our philatelic society slowly returns to normal as well. You are most welcome to come to our meetings, both held in the early afternoon at 2pm, in a safe environment with no steps. You will experience interesting displays, a mini-auction, a short show and tell from other members, afternoon tea, and a warm welcoming atmosphere. I hope that you can attend one of our meetings very soon.

Happy collecting,

Greg Laidler, President

FROM THE SECRETARY

It is now just on six months to Newcastle 2021, a part National Exhibition to be held in the Newcastle Showground Exhibition Building 22nd to 24th October. We are planning to have at least 330 display frames (sides) of exhibits. Early indications are that there will be some great material entered covering a range of topics and interests that should appeal to everyone. Most of the trading stands have been secured with traders already placing holding deposits. Our major supporter, Australia Post, will also be in attendance with an interesting range of material for sale.

Over the past few months we have been holding mini auctions at the conclusion of our main Thursday meetings. This is donated material with the proceeds going towards the cost of meeting room hire.

John Moore, Secretary

COVID PRECAUTIONS AT A CANADIAN POST OFFICE !

The following anecdote occurred in the early days of Covid last year. This is how it was described in the *British North American Philatelic Society eLetter* of July 2020:

Charlie Livermore purchased a number of post office publications from Bill Longley. When Bill arrived at the post office they didn't want him licking the stamps necessary to mail the envelope. Their answer was to insert the cancelled but un-licked stamps into a transparent envelope and tape it to the mailing envelope. And here are those stamps, cancelled but fully gummed! It's a wonder the stamps didn't fall from the glassine holder as one end was completely open. Unfortunately, as with much of mail from Canada, there are no post office marks on the envelope – neither cancellations from Canada – nor receivers from the US.

**NAME BADGES**

Membership name badges have now arrived and will be available from Roger at Society meetings. The cost is \$7 for a badge with ordinary clip.

**Display: NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEMORABILIA
John Moore Thurs Feb 11, 2021**

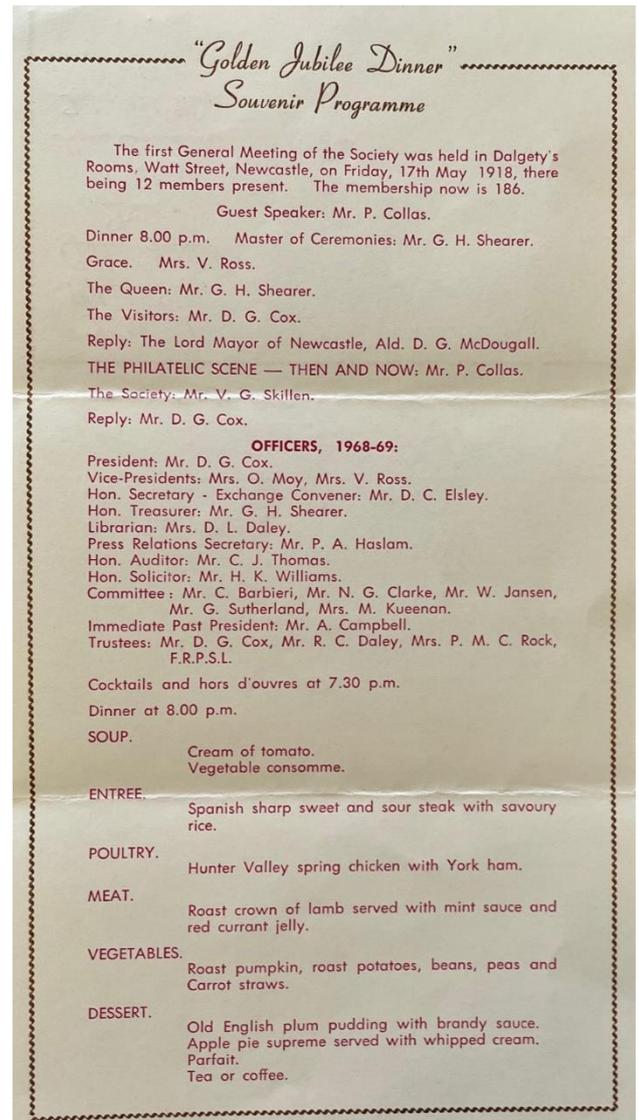
Well, this was quite different from our usual displays. John showed a selection of items from the Society's collection of memorabilia. John has recently taken charge of the club's archive from Bernie Doherty, who was its guardian for many years. It's now over 100 years since a half dozen or so enthusiasts met and decided to form a club dedicated to the enjoyment and encouragement of stamp collecting. We are fortunate that a lot of material has been kept that shows how active the Society has been for a long time.

We saw some meeting attendance books from 1963-6. These showed that as many as 35 members attended some meetings – certainly more than we get these days. Our long-standing members knew most of these old-timers. Your intrepid Newsletter editor was interested to see copies of old Newsletters, one from the pre-computer year 1977 – how much easier it is to produce a nice Newsletter now. Also we saw the letter from the PMG to the Society granting permission for us to use a picture of the Shortland stamp as part of our logo.

One of the special activities for the 50th anniversary of the Society in 1958 was a banquet. Shown here is the program that was produced for the occasion. We also saw a decorative stand featuring the Society logo, one of which was on every table.

There was lots of material relating to the Society's exhibitions Norpex '87 and Norpex '91. We saw designs for logos and cinderellas, as well as lots of photos. The photos were great; I especially enjoyed pictures of the very young-looking Don Catterall, John Hill, Ron Davis, Roger Eggleton and others. And I appreciated seeing photos of members from before my time but who I have heard spoken of many times. Finally, the large folder of clippings from newspapers attested to the success of this Society over the years.

Many thanks go to John Moore for organising the material and telling us about it. The 23 members and guests attending had an enjoyable day.



A CENTURY AGO

The Covid pandemic has caused much discussion about the last major pandemic – the Spanish Influenza of 1918. Here is a New Zealand stamp from 2018 recognising the event. I haven't found other stamps featuring the 1918 event. Do any of our readers know of such stamps?



Display: POLAND WW2, GYMNOSPERMS AND CZECH COVERS
Howard Fisher Wed Feb 17, 2021

As always, Howard provided an interesting display – this one was a three course meal! The entrée was an interesting collection on *Gymnosperms*. These are trees that have exposed seeds – in Australia typically conifers and cycads. The *Norfolk Island Pine* and *Wollemi Pine* are well known examples here. Since Gymnosperms don't have flowers, they are much less often the subject of stamps and most of the stamps Howard found were from Northern hemisphere countries. A well-known American example is the *Giant Sequoia* which can grow to 80 m in height and live for 2000 years. The most exotic is the *Welwitschia* from the Namib desert of southern Africa which is seldom more than a meter high and has only two leaves, which it keeps for life!



The main course involved postal history of Poland in late WW2 and the immediate post-war period. We learned from the display by George Kuszelyk just how complex the history of Poland is, situated as it is in the midst of the European superpowers. This theme was clearly visible in Howard's display of Polish stamps and covers of this period. Early in the War, the Government became a Government-in-exile first in Paris, then in London and issued stamps throughout the war and afterwards. Most of these had military themes and these stamps were accepted in Britain and other friendly countries. Polish forces throughout the war were controlled by the Government-in-exile and were particularly active in Italy. Shown here is the set issued after their success at the decisive Battle of Monte Cassino in 1944.



From near the beginning of the war Poland was occupied by the Soviets who set up their own government. Their stamps were printed in Moscow for some time, then later in Krakow.

And for dessert we were treated to a collection of covers from Czechoslovakia. It was a beautiful collection, many of them honouring the Czech painter and graphic artist Alfons Mucha. Mucha was famous for his Art Nouveau style paintings and posters from around the turn of the century, and some of the stamps featuring his work issued by Czechoslovakia are quite stunning.



Howard's displays are always impressive, and we again witnessed his wide range of collecting interests.

Display: AMBLING AROUND THE ARCTIC OCEAN
Ron Davis Wed Mar 17, 2021

As with all of Ron's displays, this was a bit of a geography lesson. Having ambled around much of the world in previous displays, Ron gave us a travelogue of the northernmost part of the world. Did you know that the coast of Russia makes up half of the boundary of the Arctic Ocean and Canada one-quarter?

We expected items from places like Russia, Canada, Greenland and Iceland, but of course we were introduced to tiny or short-lived or out-of-the-way stamp-issuing entities. Have you



heard of *Aunus*, or *North Ingermanland*? *Aunus* is a town near Lake Ladoga in Russia which issued a total of 4 stamps, while trying to be independent in 1919. *North Ingermanland* (*Inkeri* in Finnish) is a small area on the Finland-Russia border that was briefly independent in 1919-20 after the Bolshevik revolution. Other little-known places, *Little Diomed Island* and *Big Diomed Island* showed up in Ron's display via postcards. These islands are only 4 kms apart, but straddle the international date line in the Bering Strait, Little in USA and Big in Russia! *Aalborg* is a seaport town in Denmark, but issued its own stamps in 1884-89.



From Canada, we had a cover carried by dog-team mail, and a cover carried by the Arctic supply ship *Nascopie*, postmarked on far north Baffin Island. From the Faroe Islands we saw a lovely collection of postcards, and from Iceland there was a cover showing the volcanic island of Surtsey when it was just being formed in 1963. Norway was represented by a postcard from Hammerfest, the northernmost town in the world and Sweden by local post, unissued stamps and a card sent from a post office precisely on the Arctic Circle.



Ron's format of providing a map and a brief write-up for each place visited means that we get full value from his displays. Another entertaining lesson in history and geography – thank you, Ron.

Display: CANBERRA TO THE CAPITAL Bob Glendenning Thurs Mar 11, 2021



Bob had prepared this display as an entry for AusVipex 2020, the virtual one-frame exhibition organised last year by the APF. Bob won a silver medal for his efforts. The display presented a



postal history of the Canberra area and surrounding district which was both interesting and informative. By the mid-1800s there were already a number of villages and rural estates (including one called Canberra) in what is now the ACT; Bob had covers postmarked *Canberra* well before the name was officially adopted for the capital. As well, we saw postmarks from nearby communities such as Yass, Queanbeyan, and Gunning, along with early history of the mail in the area. NSW finally ceded the necessary land and the *Federal Capital Territory* was established in 1911. Duntroon military camp was established then on the old Campbell estate and Bob had a postcard from that early period. He had stamps with postmarks from early post offices such as Ainslie, East Lake, West Ridge and Russell Hill, most of which have been closed or superseded by now. In 1937 the name changed from FCT to the *Australian Capital Territory*, which was reflected in the postmarks. This display began with a page showing the first stamp issues of all the States, an impressive way to start.

In addition to the Canberra display Bob showed us his collection of pre-decimal Australia. Many pages showed both mint and used copies and blocks of each stamp. At the end of the meeting, Bob was presented with a certificate recognising his 40 years of membership in the Society.

🤩 **SWAP AND SALE** 🤩

Finally!! Covid restrictions relaxed to the point where we were allowed to run a Swap & Sale Night. We've been waiting long enough, haven't we? It was held at the Pasterfield Centre on **Thursday, April 22** starting at 6:45. Here is a report from the organiser, Don Catterall:

This event was held for the first time at our Cameron Park venue and all went really well despite Covid restrictions. 26 members attended, showing great support and indicative of the continuing interest in our hobby. Another 14 who came along were mainly regulars from our auction nights.

13 vendors took tables whilst a few more took half tables, ensuring that there was no lack of material for the eager buyers. After two hours of hectic activity we all packed up and headed home. Most people had had a successful night, and many were asking when our auctions would resume.

All in all a very worthwhile philatelic event.

DC



Display: CONVICT SETTLEMENTS ON NORFOLK ISLAND
Ross Zimmerman, Wed Apr 21, 2021

These days we think of a stint in gaol as being harsh, but in the early days of Norfolk Island, life was nearly inhumane, especially during the revived Second Penal settlement from 1825, when the island was a “place of banishment for the worst re-offenders”. Particularly brutal were two governors –Captain James Morisset (1829-1834) and Major Joseph Childs (1844-1846), both of whom “made life as hard as they possibly could”. Prisoner rehabilitation was introduced 1840-1843 under a new Governor and convicts could work towards reduction of their sentence or gain privileges through good behaviour. The penal settlement was finally closed in 1853.

Sighted by Cook in 1774 who noted its fertility, Norfolk Island was occupied just 6 weeks after the First Fleet landed in 1788 and an agricultural settlement was set up using convict labour to support the larger settlement in Port Jackson.

Ross visited the island in 2019. Assisted by two of our members, John Edwards and Russell Goddard who have both been on the island, Ross outlined its history as a convict settlement – 1788 to 1853 – minus the 12 years that it was deserted in 1814 to 1825.



While Norfolk Island has produced stamps showing all sorts of topics since 1947, and while Ross's display was about the convict era, it's surprising how many of the buildings built by the convicts are shown on postage stamps. The Pentagonal Gaol, completed in the late 1840's was demolished many years ago. It consisted of five radiating arms of cells – the "model prison" of its time. An 1953 issue showed five of the old structures, including Bloody Bridge – so named because of the murder of a warder by convicts at the bridge during its construction.

The 1964 pictorial definitive series showed The Arches and Slaughter Bay (although there wasn't a slaughter there!), and the Salt House and Bloody Bridge appeared again in 1966. Also shown in the 1973-75 Historic Buildings of Norfolk Island set was the Powder Magazine, used up to 1959 to store explosives. A later survey showed it contained 16,000 to 30,000 rounds of ammunition !!



And of interest is the Crank Mill, built in 1827, used to grind and crack maize. It was worked by two parties of convicts, one working from breakfast and the second working from dinnertime. There was regular sabotage of the mill machinery. The convicts could see all the passers-by through the windows, and (untypical for the island) they "would shout, cheer, yell, hoot and whistle" at them. This building has now fallen into ruins.

Apart from a book of photographs, possibly the best item in the display was the 1979 three-stamp joint strip of Emily Bay, again showing the Salt House. Stamps issued from Norfolk Island stopped in 2016, and they are now issued by Australia Post as an Australian external territory

R.J.D.

**POPULAR CHOICE
COMPETITION: LETTER 'C'
Thurs Apr 8**

Our **Letter 'C'** competition brought out the usual imaginative variety of topics. This year we trialled a new voting system. It was decided to vote for winners in three separate categories: *Classic or Traditional Philately, Presentation & Arrangement* and *Interesting Theme and Content*. This proved a good idea since we ended up with three different winners. **Ed Burnard** was the runaway winner in the Traditional Philately category with a beautiful display of Chalon Heads. **Roger Eggleton** narrowly edged out **Don Catterall** in the Presentation & Arrangement category and **Eric Barlow** amused everyone with his *Casualties* – stamps that were cut, creased, crushed, etc. being the most popular Theme. A most enjoyable afternoon!



LETTER 'C' ENTRIES

- Tony Walker* Leonard Charles Collins POW in German Hands
- Greg Laidler* Centenary Celebration Messages on Commercial Covers
- Jim MacDougall* Canada's 10th Province – Newfoundland First Day Covers
- Ross Zimmerman* Cricket in Australia
- Gordon Gibbons* Chile
- Eric Barlow* Casualties
- Don Catterall* Cricket
- Don Rutherford* Cancellations
- Russell Goddard* Caravans
- Russell Goddard* Cape Lighthouses
- Anna Hill* Early 20th Century Russian & Polish Currency
- Ed Burnard* The Chalon Heads
- Roger Eggleton* The letter C
- Ron Davis* Cats
- Ron Davis* Cathedrals Churches & a Crowd
- Carol Davis* Camels, Ships of the Desert

Empire Classics



Britain acquired Ceylon as a colony in 1815 at the end of the Napoleonic wars and her exploitation of the colony's resources necessitated a proper mail service. Perkins Bacon agreed in 1854 to prepare 6d stamps especially for the Colony, 6d being the uniform rate for colonial postage. Engraver William Humphreys produced a classic based on a watercolour of the Queen by well-known English artist Edward Courthold and printed on unperforated blued paper. Somehow it managed to take three years before the stamps actually were released for use. By that time additional denominations were already needed, and many were printed from the same design over the next 15 years. A second attractive design was introduced within a year to be used for the 9d and some other values.



Afternoon tea served Covid style by Anna Hill

Watermarks: Do you use anything to help you detect watermarks on your stamps? Some people use lighter fluid or benzene, and there are more benign liquids advertised for sale. Do you think these do any damage to the stamps? I'd like to know – send me your comments, please.

Toowoomba Stamp Club brings
National One-Frame Stamp Exhibition
Toowoomba 2021
to the Darling Downs

Toowoomba 2021 will be held at the Toowoomba Indoor Bowls Hall, 10 Annand St,
Toowoomba City 4350

from Saturday 9th October 2021 to Sunday 10th October 2021.

Special discounted hotel packages and accommodation are available within a close
walk to the Exhibition centre.

For more information [contact us](#)