



VIEWS FROM NOBBY'S

Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

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

Website : www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au

August 2021 Newsletter 198 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

Stop Press!

2021 NEWCASTLE STAMP AND COIN EXPO

**Scheduled for October this year has been
postponed until May 2022**

Further information will be available in due course.

COVID restrictions have forced us to cancel our August meetings. We are planning to hold the AGM in September and some of the other planned meetings are changed. These are subject to change so please check the website regularly for updated information.

Thursday Regular Monthly Meetings

9 September – *AGM, Annual Competition and Awards*

14 October – *Popular Choice, 6 Pages of Something philatelic starting with the letter 'D'*

11 November – *GREG LAIDLER: 1936 Tasmanian Cable Issue*

9 December – *DON CATTERALL: Annual quiz relating to Australian stamps*

Wednesday Social Meetings

15 September – *ED BURNARD: New Zealand – Alternative Posts, Part 2*

20 October – *SANDRA BAKER: British Antarctica, French Antarctica, and 100 Objects of Irish Heritage*

17 November – *JOHN HILL: Christmas Island*

6 November – *Christmas Party (last Friday in November)*

December: No social meeting.

***** NPS Website *****

Our website has been updated recently after long neglect. Thanks to our president Greg, it looks very good and has lots of new up-to-date information. One exciting new addition is a place to feature small displays from members. Some have already been added – take a look. Also you can see all our past Newsletters (they look so much better in colour); there is some interesting reading there! The website is really important as a way of encouraging more interest in philately and, potentially, attracting new younger members to NPS. See Greg's President's Piece on page 2.

Auction – Wed, Sept 22. Viewing from 6:30, auction starts at 7:00. Details and lotting numbers from Don Catterall. Follow the covid regulations

Wallsend Stamp Fair

Due to COVID restrictions the Fair has ceased operating for a while. Keep watch for notice of when it reopens.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

As we emerge from another winter, it is time to reflect on our meetings and how to improve them as the warm weather returns. Afternoon tea, mini-auctions, and informative displays are planned for the rest of the year.

Can you give a display? Thursday monthly meetings generally have a display of 50 to 60 A4 pages. However the Wednesday social meetings are suitable for small or developing collections. Your display of 20 pages can be shared with another member. These displays are not judged, and many of the more experienced collectors are willing to help.

Our website, www.newcastlephilatelicociety.org.au, has been upgraded - have a look at it. There are two new sections, one is COMING EVENTS, where every society event is recorded. The other new section is under MEMBER DISPLAYS, where small collections can be shown. No member names on the displays please, and a limit of two displays per member up to 8GB each.

The Stamp and Coin Expo is fast approaching. Entries in the philatelic exhibition close at the end of July. On the days of the expo, we require some help. We employ workmen from the venue and furniture hire company to do the heavy work, but there are many smaller jobs, such as mounting the exhibits in the frames, which we can do.

Our AGM is held during our August monthly meeting. Consider standing for the committee, or being a displayer. Don't forget the annual club competition, which is also held on that afternoon. Happy collecting, stay safe and take care.

Greg Laidler, President

FROM THE SECRETARY

It is now less than 3 months to the Newcastle Stamp Exhibition which is scheduled for 22nd to 24th of October. The exhibition has been well supported by exhibitors and the many dealers who have taken up trading tables. Australia Post will be in attendance with a range of products for sale including some specially prepared for the exhibition.

Advertised in this Newsletter is a range of products that have been produced for sale with the proceeds going towards covering cost of holding the exhibition.

With all exhibitions there is a need for as many volunteers as possible, especially to mount exhibits in the frames on the Thursday set up day and again on the Sunday afternoon to remove the exhibits that are on display. We also need volunteers to act as meet and greeters on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday as well as man our trading table and in general be good ambassadors by making visitors and dealers welcome.

John Moore, Secretary

Passing of a Distinguished Philatelist

Sadly we report the passing on 30 June 2021 of **John William Lavender**, a 60-year member of Newcastle Philatelic Society, as well as a loyal member of the Maitland Stamp Club and Toronto Stamp Club. John celebrated his 82nd birthday on 5 June this year. We offer our sincere condolences to his wife Lydia.

John's philatelic knowledge was deep and wide-ranging. He developed outstanding collections of early Australian postal history, especially NSW numeral cancels, Victorian classical philately, and Tattersall covers from the 1893-1910 period. Additionally, he built excellent Belgian collections, including the prestamp period, railway parcel cancels, the postal cards, and the beautiful semi-postal issues. He also formed a comprehensive Russian collection up to the 1960s, and even a Latvian collection. John was a serious philatelist and a good friend to many of us, and we will miss him greatly.

- RBE

Display: GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS – CROWN COLONY TO INDEPENDENCE

John Moore, Wednesday 19 May 2021

The Gilbert Islands and Ellice Islands are neighbouring groups of islands and coral atolls in the central Pacific straddling both the equator and the international date line. The Ellice Islands are to the west and the population is largely of Polynesian origin, while the Gilbert Islands to the north and east have a much larger population of mainly Melanesian origin. The UK took control of the islands in 1892 as a protectorate and then later as a Crown Colony.



Regular postal services began in 1911 and the first stamps to be used were the Fiji Edward VII issue overprinted with 'Gilbert & Ellice Protectorate'. Within the year, they had their own; an attractive design featuring a pandanus tree. After this, the stamp issues were uninspiring – a standard George V colonial issue which lasted for 25 years followed by a George VI pictorial set which lasted until his picture was replaced by that of Queen Elizabeth. By the 1960s we started to get many attractive issues depicting island themes.



In 1976 the Crown Colony was dissolved. The Ellice Islands became Tuvalu, a constitutional monarchy and the Gilbert Islands became Kiribati a republic, both within the Commonwealth. Kiribati followed a restrained program of stamp issues, mostly related to the Islands but Tuvalu flooded the market with irrelevant issues as a way to raise revenue for the country. They did

however produce a lovely set of postage dues. John's display covered all the aspects of these small countries, with lots of attractive sets and covers.



AWARD FOR JOHN

Exciting news for John Moore! He has recently been made a *Member of the Australian Philatelic Order (MAP)*. He was given this special recognition from the Australian Philatelic Federation for his many and varied services to Australian philately over many years. John has been very active at the club level, state level and nationally and has held numerous offices. Read the citation in the July issue of Philas News at [www. https://www.philas.net.au/philas-news](https://www.philas.net.au/philas-news), Well deserved, John!

Display: ALL ABOUT GOLD

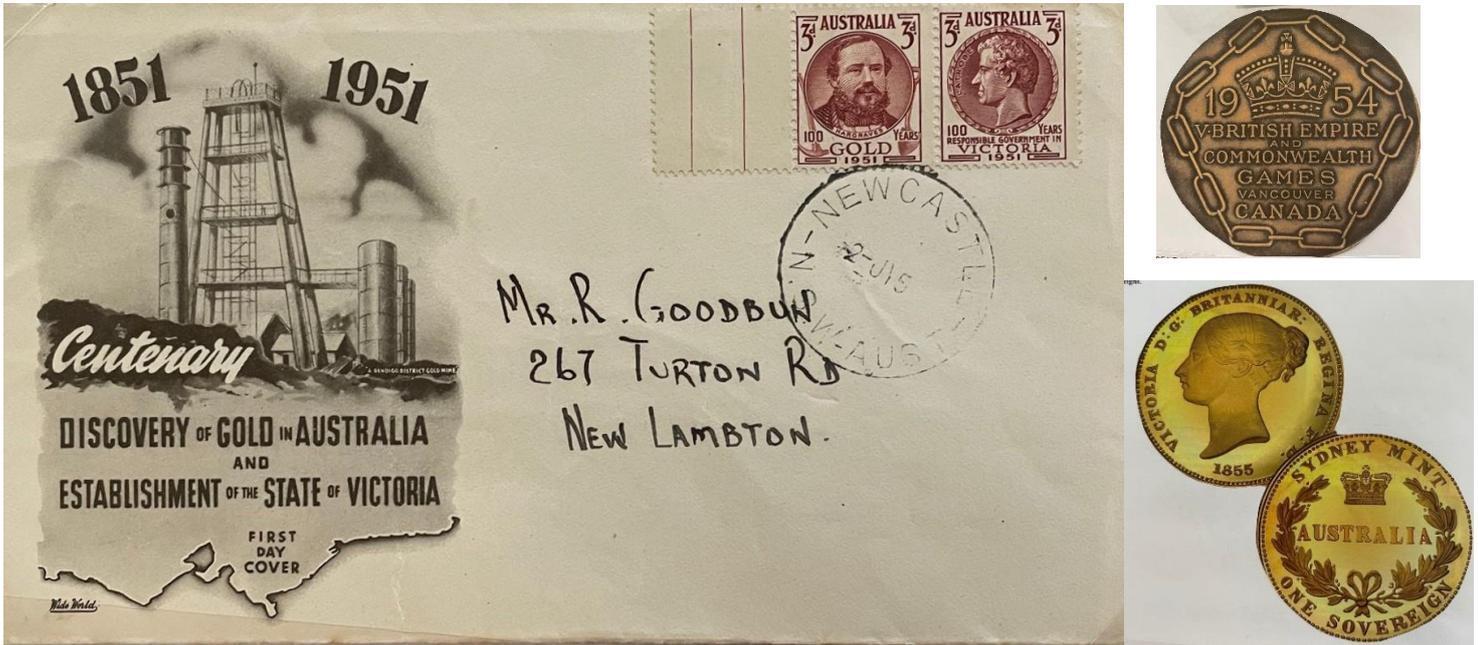
Russell Goddard, Thursday 13 May 2021

We don't get to see many thematic displays, so Russell's on the subject of gold was a nice change. I was struck with what a colourful display it was and what a nice variety of material he had. One section dealt with gold mining and the metal itself and another dealt with the uses of gold.

There were nice items about the various gold rushes around the world. Photos and cachets on covers illustrated, for example, the 1851 discovery of gold in the Bathurst region and, within only a few years, the establishment of Cobb & Co coach service to the area. An especially nice set commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Yukon discovery of 1897 was issued by Canada. One of the highlights was a picture of a Victorian gold license from the Eureka days of



1854. Also he showed a FDC issued for the 125th anniversary of the Eureka Stockade (postmarked in Eureka, Victoria). There was also an issue from *An Post* of Ireland on Irish heritage in Australia including Ned Kelly!) Here we saw covers, photos, phonecards, postcards and more many items which celebrated many kinds of gold awards. There were medals for Nobel Prizes, Empire and Commonwealth Games, Paralympics and many different Olympics as well as the magnificent trophy for the Melbourne Cup - all 1,65 Kg of it! The



real highlight of this section was the actual medal for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, earned by Russell's daughter. And finally we saw a mini-sheet celebrating the 150th anniversary of Australia's first gold sovereign from 1855.

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST STAMP

After spending 10 years trying to organise seven state postal services into one federal Postmaster-General's Department, the authorities finally turned to the task of planning the first stamp issue. It was decided to organise a public competition to come up with a design. This was widely publicised, the notice in the Government Gazette of Jan 13, 1911 spelling out the conditions of entry, which included:

... preference will be given to designs which best lend themselves to engraving on a reduced scale. The designs must include features characteristic of Australia, and also the words "Australia" and "postage" as well as the stamp value in Arabic figures, or in both figures and letters. The treatment of the designs should not be made too photographic or realistic



The competition drew a lot of interest from the Australian public as well as from overseas, with over a thousand entries received from 533 entrants. Shown here are a few of the entries. The rather crowded design featuring King George an emu, a kangaroo and shields representing the six states was chosen as the winner and its designer Herman Altmann from Melbourne won £100 for his effort. Two English entries shared the second prize.



As it turned out, the new Labour Postmaster-General George Frazer was less than impressed with Altmann's design, describing it as 'execrable'! Artist Blamire Young was commissioned



to produce something that Frazer liked, and the kangaroo and map design eventuated. It finally arrived in the post offices in January 1913 and the young country at long last had its own stamps.

Display: BRITISH OFFSHORE ISLANDS
Ron Davis Thurs June 10, 2021

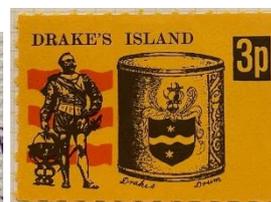
Ron's displays typically visit small seldom-heard-of countries, towns or regions that issued postage stamps recognised by the international postal system. This display was different, focusing almost entirely on local carriage issues – that is, stamps issued by a locality for the use only within itself. It turns out there were many of these in the UK, commonly on the many islands surrounding Britain. Thankfully Ron provided maps so we could locate *Gugh*, *Bardsey*, *Inchmarnock*, *Drake's Island*, *Davaar* and more, 33 in all. In most cases, the local stamp was used to take the letter to a GBPO office on the mainland where it would need UK postage as well to get to its destination.



These local stamps varied greatly. We saw some from the *Scilly Islands* (off Cornwall) and *Hilbre* (off Liverpool) that were simply labels. But many others were quite sophisticated, produced using modern printing techniques.

Some of the items were familiar. Many of us have seen stamps from Lundy before, and Ron had some nice ones to show us including diamonds and triangles. Also in 1958 the GBPO regional issues included some for the *Isle of Man* as well as *Guernsey* and *Jersey* in the Channel Islands, and these were recognised for postage anywhere in the UK. But there were also local posts in other Channel Islands: *Sark*, *Herm*, *Brecqhou* and *Alderney*, all very pretty stamps. And we had stamps from the oddly named *Calf of Man*, an island near *Isle of Man*.

Flannan in the outer Hebrides, *Stroma* and *Gairsay* in the Orkneys, *Grunay* in the Shetlands, *Caldey Island* off South Wales and *Inchmarnock* in the Firth of Clyde were all represented, along with more. *Drake's Island* is in the middle of Plymouth harbour and is named after Sir Francis Drake. Puzzlingly, many of these islands had little or no population, making one wonder why there was a need for stamps! Another interesting and educational display from Ron.



Display: POLAND 1918 OVERPRINTS
George Kuszelyk, Thursday 13 May 2021

George has previously shown us an exhibit on Poland and it illustrated how very complicated Polish postal history is. This exhibit provided further evidence of that. At the beginning of WW1 Poland did not exist as a country. Its territory was controlled by the neighbouring superpowers – Germany occupied the north, Russia the centre and Austria-Hungary the south. Three currencies and three postal services existed.

At war's end in late 1918 the country of Poland was formed and late in 1919, Poland began issuing its own stamps. But in the interim, they overprinted stamps from Germany and Austria and these are what George showed us. The overprint usually just consisted of the words *Poczta Polska*. Although there was a relatively small number of different issues being overprinted, it was done hurriedly and many variations appeared, making this fertile ground for collectors. George has found copies of a remarkable number of the possible variations, which is amazing given the short period in which these stamps circulated and the small quantity that was printed. It wasn't uncommon for the overprint to be inverted, or errors in the printed words to appear (note the inverted 'k' in *Polska* shown here).



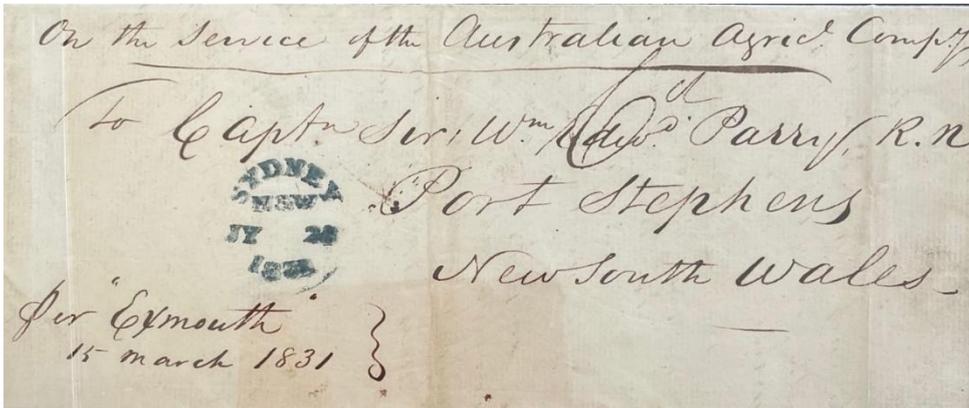
George did a good job of organising and presenting the display, as well as providing lots of helpful explanatory notes to guide us through a complicated piece of postal history.



Display: PRE-1850 PRE-STAMPED NSW MAIL
Warren Oliver, Wed June 16, 2021

Well, what a terrific display! Warren treated us to a large collection of material from the pre-stamp era in NSW (which at this time comprised the whole eastern part of the continent). The earliest item appeared in 1829 and the latest in 1851. By the end of this period, there were still only 96 post offices throughout the whole colony.

This was also the pre-envelope era; all this mail consisted of folded lettersheets, usually sealed with red wax. As a result, we got to see the contents of each piece of



correspondence – something we seldom see with covers. These provided a wonderful historical record; some people were writing to family members, perhaps in the old country, describing their lives in the colony. There were two letters from convicts; one couldn't wait to get back to England, the other wished he'd come to Australia

10 years earlier! Another described how desperate he was after having lost 400 sheep. The beautiful penmanship and formal language made it clear that these were from a different era. Warren had thoughtfully transcribed many of the letters for us.

Since there were no stamps, and postmark cancellations were not standardised, Warren's interest was in the various handstamps used. There seemed to be an endless variety, and some are shown here. It was common to handstamp or write the cost of postage on the front (see the '2' and '8' here).

Several letters were of special interest to the Hunter. One was the letter (shown here) sent to Sir William Parry, the commissioner of the AA Company who lived in Port Stephens. Another was the letter written by Maria Windeyer to her sister after the death of Maria's husband Richard. The Windeyers owned a very large estate at Tomago and

their historic home, *Tomago House*. still stands. Altogether this was a fascinating display, and I wished there had been time to read all the letters carefully. Many thanks, Warren.

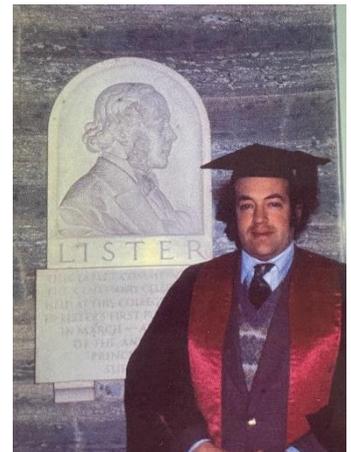


Display: A DOCTOR IN SCOTLAND
John Edwards, Wednesday

This was something quite different from our usual Wednesday activities. About 30 years ago, early in his surgical career, John had the opportunity to work in the UK for some time. This was the subject of his talk. John described the various places where he and his family lived and the hospitals and clinics in which he worked. After some time in southern England, John took a position as surgical registrar in Inverness, Scotland, and these two years were his most enjoyable. Non-invasive surgery was just beginning at this time and Scottish surgeons were at the forefront of developments.

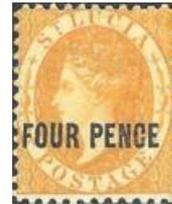
John was impressed with the Scottish education system, both in schools and in medical colleges. He talked with admiration about the wonderful history of medical training in Scotland, including many famous medical pioneers coming out of the University of Edinburgh. He is pictured here next to a bust of Joseph Lister, the famous pioneer of antiseptic surgery. We learned that the oldest medical school in Scotland began as far back as 1450 in St Andrews, and that a Medical college for women opened in the 1850s.

Not many of us are able to spend an extended period living in another country. John clearly found this a very valuable experience. Thanks to John for a very entertaining afternoon.



Empire Classics

In 1860, the British government that its colonies in the West Indies had governor of Barbados, which actually cheap solution to the problem of Lucia. It was decided that they would he commissioned printers Perkins, with no denomination on it and print it in three colours! So St Lucia got its first stamps; red for 1d, blue for 4d and green for 6d. Despite the cheap solution and very fast response from the printer, they got a fine stamp with simple design and subtle engraving. Naturally it featured Queen Victoria. Charles Jeans was the engraver and he based his design on William Wyon's *city medal* produced in 1837 for Victoria's first visit to the City of London as queen (the same design as for the penny black). This issue remained in use for 20 years before someone finally thought to surcharge the stamps with their value!



decided, without much warning, to run their own postal affairs. The administered St Lucia, decided on a producing a stamp issue for St. need three denominations were, so Bacon to produce a single design

A Sign of the Times

I guess it was just a matter of time, but here is a minisheet featuring a QR code. And I don't think it's the first. The otherwise attractive issue is from *Aitutaki*, second largest of the *Cook Islands*, and features the Asian elephant which is an endangered species. There are no Asian elephants on Aitutaki, of course, in fact there is only a single mammal which is native to Aitutaki - a species of fruit bat, (how did it get there?)

This QR code will actually work – it takes you to a Smithsonian Institute website about these endangered elephants. By the way, in case you hadn't thought to ask, QR stands for 'Quick Response' and it is really just a two-dimensional version of the barcode. The concept was invented by a Japanese automotive company in 1994.



