



IEWS FROM NOBBY'S

Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

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

Website : www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au

February 2022 Newsletter 200 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

NEWSLETTER 200

Besides our regular features, in this *Views from Nobby's* we are celebrating the 200th issue of the Society's regular communication with its members. Greg has written a very interesting history of how the Newsletter evolved over the century that NPS has existed and I've picked out some highlights from earlier issues for your enjoyment. Enjoy!

MEETING SCHEDULE

Thu, Feb 10 – Monthly meeting: JIM MACDOUGALL, *History of Canada*

Wed Feb 16 – Social meeting: ROGER EGGLETON, *Maldives*

Thu .Feb 24 – AUCTION, 6:45

Thu, Mar 10 – Monthly meeting: RON DAVIS, *British Offshore Islands, Part 2*

Wed Mar 16 – Social meeting: ED BURNARD, *New Zealand Alternate Post Systems, Part 2*

Thur Apr 14 – Monthly meeting: *Popular choice competition – 6 pages on a topic beginning with letter 'D'*

Wed Apr 20 – Social meeting: JOHN EDWARDS, *Australian Kangaroo Series*; RON DAVIS, *North Africa*

Thur May 12 – Monthly meeting, *displayer tba*

Wed May 18 – Social meeting: GEORGE KUSZELYK, *Irish Christmas stamps*, & PETER CHALKER, *Cigarette Cards*

Thur 26 May – set up day for Newcastle Stamp and Coin Expo

Fri 27 May to Sun 29 May – Newcastle Stamp and Coin Expo

Thur June 9 – monthly meeting, *displayer tba*

Wed June 15 – social meeting, display by ROSS ZIMMERMAN, *Frank Hurley photographs and Australian Antarctic and other territories*; GREG WELLS, *Australian Territories*

Thur July 14 – monthly meeting, display by VIV MANWARING, *Australian Enstamped Envelopes 1900-1937*

Wed July 20 – social meeting, display by DON RUTHERFORD, *Sweden: King Facing Right, plus 20 pages; tba*

Thur Aug 4 – monthly meeting, *AGM and Awards Activity*

***** AUCTION *****

Finally! After a long wait (and barring any last minute government decrees), we are able to schedule an auction. It will be held on Thursday Feb 24 at the Pasterfield Centre; viewing begins at 6:45 and selling begins at 7:30. Bring your money!

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Two hundred issues of a newsletter is quite an achievement. It is testament to the strength of our society, to the range of activities that we are engaged in, and to the talent of our editors. I would like to pass on my congratulations to all that have been involved with the first two hundred newsletters. Elsewhere in this edition is a history of the newsletters, and some excerpts from them. I hope you enjoy reading the articles, and recalling the events described.

Back to the present. Covid continues to wreak havoc on our meetings, our activities and our attendance. Our auctions have had to be postponed yet again, but we are hoping all is good for February 24. Monthly meetings have continued, but with reduced numbers. Displays are still the highlight of each meeting, for both the monthly (Thursday) meetings and the social (Wednesday) meetings.

I can remember, as a small boy, lining up at school to get a vaccination. They gave us all a sugar cube, put some brown liquid from a dropper onto the sugar, and told us to suck it until it was all gone. That was an oral vaccine for polio. This mass vaccination eradicated polio as a disease of children and young adults.

Most stamp collectors have heard of the Wesley Cover Service; it was started by John Gower. He contracted polio as a young man, and was left paralysed in the legs. He spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair. It was from this wheelchair that John Gower developed his stamp and cover enterprises. So polio, before the vaccinations, is an important part of philately and the Wesley Cover Service.

I urge you all to stay safe, avoid crowds and places where you might catch this virus. It remains an ideal time to develop your collection, write up those stamps and covers you haven't quite got around to, and research the reason for the stamp issue or postage rate.

Happy collecting, Greg Laidler, President

SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS

I am sure you will all join with me in welcoming members to the 200th edition of the Newcastle Philatelic Society's Newsletter *Views from Nobbys*. The Newcastle 2022-part National exhibition is getting closer to the scheduled date of 27th to 29th May. I would like to remind members if you still considering entering, entries close on 28th February. Up-to-date information about the exhibition and entry forms can be found on our website:

www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au

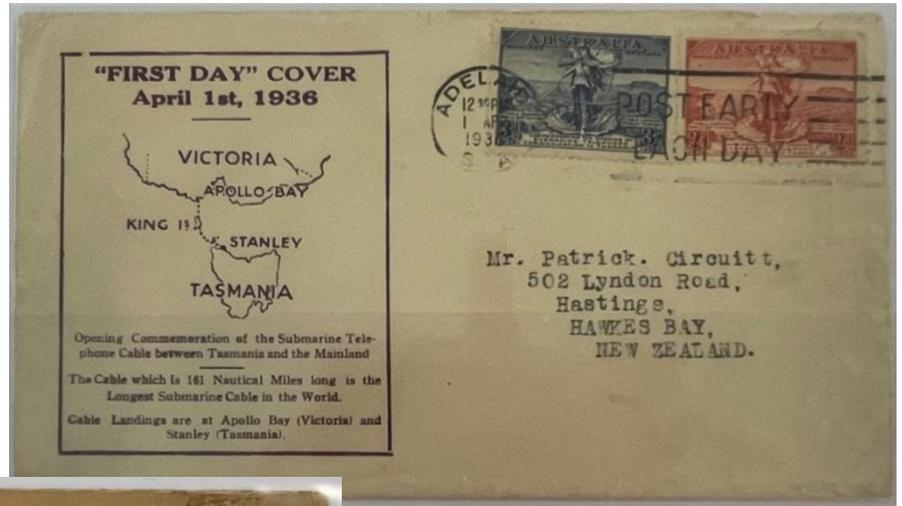
Like all exhibitions the success involves many things including volunteers to help during the exhibition. If you have not already indicated your availability, please let me know. The tasks will be varied from meet-and-greet visitors to assisting in placing exhibits in the display frames and many things in between.

As you will see from our programme there is many interesting displays and activities scheduled for the coming months. Those that have not been to our 'new' meeting venue at Cameron Park 'come on down' and check the place out. There is heaps of car parking and a level walk into the building with great facilities. At many of our main monthly meetings we hold a mini auction of approximately 30 lots of material that has been donated to the society. The reserves are very low allowing many bargains to be had. Another feature of our Monthly and Social meetings is time to socialise in a Covid safe way over a cup of tea or coffee with maybe a cake or a biscuit or two. Hope to see you all soon.

John Moore, Secretary

Display: 1936 TASMANIAN CABLE ISSUE
Greg Laidler, Thursday, 11 Nov 2021

In 1936, the undersea telephone cable to Tasmania from the mainland was completed. It joined Apollo Bay in Victoria to King Island, then King Island to Port Stanley, two sections of about 150 kilometres each., which allowed telephone conversations to and from Tasmania for the first time. The Australian Post Office celebrated the occasion with an issue of two stamps of the same design, featuring Greek goddess Amphitrite against a background of Stanley Head, a 2d in red for the standard letter rate and 3d in blue for the airmail rate and for registration.. They were printed



on a sheet consisting of four panels of 80. Somewhat surprisingly, there was no high value in the set.

Greg's display was a very comprehensive study of the usages of these two stamps. The 2d had some engraving flaws as well as plate retouches and the 3d had three major plate flaws, all of which we saw. In addition, there were covers illustrating just about every imaginable usage. We saw numerous first day covers, domestic or registered or overseas or

redirected, as well as a letter posted on the *second* day of issue. There were postage-due letters, a cover signed by the purser of a ship, two covers to American president Roosevelt, a letter to a sailor on a ship, a return-to-sender letter and a dead letter. There were a number of registered letters, showing a variety of registration labels. The registered letter shown here was interesting – the post office sold the envelope pre-stamped (with 5d (2d for postage and 3d for registration) and charged 5½d. The additional 3d is for postage to USA. Not surprisingly, we had an envelope with the slogan "Say it by telephone". Air mail to UK was available and we saw a letter with the exorbitant postage of 1/6 required.

Greg must have searched long and hard to find such a variety of material. I found this display fascinating – it was a fine example of what can be done with a single stamp issue.

SIX PAGES OF SOMETHING PHILATELIC
Wednesday 17 Nov, 2021

The Social Meeting on Wednesday was devoted to 6-page contributions from members. We usually hold a couple of such meetings each year. There was good participation, with 12 members attending, 10 of whom brought something to show. Thanks to Ron Davis for bringing 2 exhibits. These meetings are fun; most

members have many small collections of interesting things but not enough to build into a major display, and we wouldn't otherwise get to see them. I'm always amazed at the variety of material we get to see. Following is a brief summary of who brought what. I'm already looking forward to the next such meeting!

- Ron Davis – Unknown Countries in Africa
- Russell Goddard – the 2021 Australian Christmas stamps
- Jim MacDougall – WW2 patriotic covers from American bases in Newfoundland
- Greg Laidler – 'old' stamp packets
- John Moore – Papuan stamps perforated with 'OS'
- Don Rutherford – rare postmarks on NSW covers
- Don Catterall – French WW1 Delandre labels
- Tony – German occupation of Guernsey
- Ed Burnard – 1854 'xylography' (wooden block printing)
- Roger Eggleton – the Australian 'alphabet' stamp issue
- Ron Davis – censored letters from WW1 and WW2

DON'S QUIZ
Thursday, 9 Dec 2021

As has now become customary, our last Monthly Meeting of the year was taken up with Don Catterall's quiz on Australian stamps. Don's quizzes are always challenging, and this year's was no exception. It consisted of 30 two-part questions, giving a maximum possible score of 60. Greg Laidler was a clear winner on 43 points, well ahead of the pack. Well done, Greg. The questions generally test our knowledge of modern Australian history. The quizzes can be challenging but they are great fun and provide one of the highlights of the year. Many thanks to Don for the time-consuming effort of preparation. Here are some samples from the quiz. Don't peek at the answers below.

Q 2.  Name this Prime Minister.
 Full Name, please

Q 14.  Name this Movie.
 Name the male star.

Q 20.  Name the Constellation. .
 Name the smallest Star.

Answers: Q3 Earle Page, Sir Earle Christmas Grafton Page Q14 Jedda, Robert Tudawali Q29 Southern Cross, *Epsilon Crucis* or *Ginan* (an Indigenous name recognized by the IAU)

Display: CHILE MISCELLANEOUS
Gordon Gibbons, Thursday, Jan 13, 2021

I knew almost nothing about the stamps and postal history of Chile, so this display was a great opportunity from me to learn something. I wasn't disappointed.

Chile's first stamps appeared in 1853 and this first design provides a complicated story. Perkins, Bacon of London produced the design featuring



a bust of explorer Christopher Columbus (*Colon* in Spanish) and the stamps were produced imperforate in denominations of 5 and 10 centavos. Within a year Perkins, Bacon plates were sent to Chile where printings were done by a variety of private companies. In 1855 there was a second London printing, followed by more in Chile over the next six years. Later new denominations of 1 and 20 centavos were added. The result was a myriad of colour shades and varieties from worn plates.



Gordon's display beautifully illustrated this complexity, with a large selection of these varieties, most in very good condition. He also showed us forgeries and later reprints, as well as bisects (which no postal rate would have required).

From the pre-stamp era, Gordon showed us some covers and lettersheets (in excellent condition), including the one shown here to Cordoba, which is in Argentina but then was considered domestic mail. Beginning in 1846, Britain operated a post office in Valparaiso, collecting the mail and shipping it to England. Later they sold British stamps for this mail. By 1881, Chile had joined the UPU and international mail was normalised. In 1927

the first commercial air service began, and Gordon showed us covers which were sold with the stamps already attached (which meant that unused copies of these stamps are rare).

The final part of the display was a collection of printed postal cards. These were very popular in the period 1885-1900. There were many different designs, some very attractive, and a wide variety of postmarks. Thanks, Gordon for a great display.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - Thurs, Dec 9



We were lucky enough to find a date after Covid restrictions has eased and before the new wave of infections struck to arrange our annual Christmas party. It was held in the pleasant facilities of the Pasterfield Centre and 16 Society members attended. As usual, we had lots of good food, drink and conversation. A highlight of the night was our customary show-and-tell. Most members brought an item to show and as usual there was a wide variety of interesting things and much discussion about them. The evening was a fine way to finish off what has been a difficult year for all of us.

**Display: A HISTORY OF IRELAND, 100 OBJECTS OF IRISH HERITAGE
Sandra Baker, Wednesday, Jan 19, 2022**

In a country where Akubra hats, Ugg boots, , Victor mowers, and Hills hoists are National icons, one shouldn't be surprised at the range of items of National interest which the Irish Post Office has portrayed. As well as the expected gold bracelets and jeweled sword hilts, there were Viking swords, slave chains, a copper bell, a crozier, and various emblems and badges, even including a washing machine from the 1950's.

Many of the objects can be seen in the National Museum of Ireland. The objects are defined as "single man-made entities, but there were also buildings in Sandra's display – she had included Royal Sites of Ireland (including the Rock of Cashel, Tipperary) and also Irish architecture in a 1982 issue.

Most of our group had not seen the stamps in the display. Most were issued in sets of four. There was discussion on how a massive horizontal stone "top" was raised onto the several upright supporting dolmen by the ancients. Also included was a "Titanic Launch" ticket from 1911, which sank on 15th April 1912 – the ticket belonged to the ship's painter. Also included were an Ardagh Chalice and a Viking Slave Chain.



ARDAGH CHALICE: Found among the Ardagh Hoard, a hoard of metalwork from the 8th and 9th century, unearthed in September of 1868. There is the chalice and four brooches, or cloth fasteners. The chalice is a large two-handled silver cup decorated with gold, gilt bronze, lead pewter and enamel, assembled from 354 separate pieces. Consisting of two hemispheres of sheet silver joined with rivets hidden by a gilt bronze band.

It's width 7.5 inches [190 mm]. The names of the apostles are incised in a frieze around the bowl, below a girdle bearing inset gold wirework, panels of animals, birds and geometric interface. Techniques include hammering, engraving, lost wax casting, filigree applique, cloisonne and enamel. Even the underside of the chalice is decorated.

VIKING SLAVE CHAIN (11th Century) Slavery had already existed in Ireland for centuries by the time the Vikings began to establish coastal settlements, but it was under the Norse-Gael Kingdom of Dublin that it reached its peak in the 11th century, becoming a major slave trade centre. In 870 Vikings, most likely Olaf the White and Ivar the Boneless, captured Dumbarton Castle in Scotland and took most of the people to the Dublin slave markets.



In 875, slaves in Iceland launched Europe's largest slave rebellion. Dublin became the biggest slave market in Western Europe, its main source of supply people from the Irish hinterland, Wales and Scotland. A decline in trade happened after the Battle of Hastings and then after England abolished slavery in 1102.

"A very educational display" was the general opinion. I certainly have a greater appreciation of Irish stamps as a result of Sandra's display.

– R. J. Davis

HISTORY OF THE NPS NEWSLETTER

The first meeting of the Newcastle Philatelic Society took place on 17 May 1918. It quickly became apparent that some means of an official publication was needed to highlight the happenings of the society. At this meeting an offer was received from Mr Fred Hagen (a leading Sydney stamp dealer and NPS member) regarding the supply of his journal *The Australian Philatelist* as the official journal of the society. This involved members becoming subscribers to his monthly magazine, and the magazine including notes of each past meeting and plans for the next meeting. This format was used by many societies at the time, since there were no means of copying minutes, notes and news sheets for distribution to members. This continued until September 1921, when *The Australian Philatelist* got into financial troubles, and the deal was re-negotiated. The subscription was set at three shillings and six pence, if 50 or more magazines could be sold. In October 1924 publication of *The Australian Philatelist* finally ceased.

There were three stamp magazines in Australia at this time which were suitable as the 'official organ', or journal, of the society. The *Victorian Philatelic Record* was nominated as the official journal of the NPS. The

VPR was edited at this time by Alec Rosenblum, a leading philatelist of the period. Members subscribed to this journal, and in return the journal devoted space to society news and events. The NPS was one of the societies which took advantage of this arrangement. In 1929 The *Victorian Philatelic Recorder* got into financial problems. The editors advised the NPS that they would reduce the space and content available to the society, and at the same time increase the subscription fees. A period of intense discussion took place, with many motions, recessions and a member ballot.

In 1930 The *Victorian Philatelic Recorder* closed. The society took up the offer by Alec Rosenblum to change to the *Australian Stamp Monthly*. The subscription would be four shillings per member, the society would have half a page each meeting for their content, and papers read out at meetings would be published free of charge. (The 'papers' were the introduction or background notes read out to members to explain the display held with each monthly meeting). The *Australian Stamp Monthly* remained the 'official organ', or publication, of the society until 1972. In 1971 it was decided to cancel the arrangement. This was because the amount of space given to the society was reduced to a bare minimum, and the cost of subscription to members kept increasing. The ownership of the magazine had changed hands, and it was no longer in the ownership of philatelists.

This concluded the arrangement in which the activities of the society were published in a publicly available philatelic magazine. In this regard, the NPS was in keeping with the other major philatelic societies in Australia. In March 1977 the first newsletter, number one, was produced. There were problems with volunteer editors, their work commitments, and printing problems, until the mid-1980s. The society seems to have relied on the goodwill of the employers of some members for copying the newsletter. In 1979 the newsletter had been registered with Australia Post as a registered publication, category B, allowing for a bulk (reduced) postage rate. Following further printing problems, the society purchased a second hand Gestetner machine in September 1984.

The current sub-title "Views from Nobby's" was adopted in July 1987, the first issue being number 48. In 1989 Ron Davis and Russell Goddard took over as co-editors. As photocopiers were introduced the quality of the newsletter improved, but again the society depended on the goodwill of employers for photocopying. From 1993 the society paid for the printing of the newsletter.



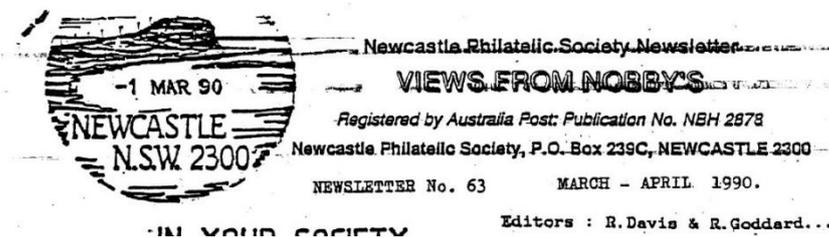
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Registered by Australia Post: Publication No. NB

"Views from Nobby's" Header

Part of the header of the first "Views from Nobby's"



The newsletter header from March 1990. The scratches are due to wear of the gestetner stencil. The mark at the top left is the staple holding the five double sided sheets together.

Ron Davis continued as editor of "View from Nobby's" until stepping down in August 2019. This issue, number 189, was a joint publication between Ron and the new editor Jim MacDougall. Jim's first newsletter was November 2019, number 190.

The newsletter is now prepared on a computer, with colour photographs and scans of stamps being added with ease. Printing is done by Officeworks, accessing

the file from a portable drive. Distribution is by email to members (with colour images) or by post (in black and white) to those members without the ability to access the computer files. Copies of the newsletter are emailed to some other philatelic societies and in return we receive the newsletters of other societies.

Back issues of the newsletter are available on the Newcastle Philatelic Society website, www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au, starting with the November 2014 issue (number 171). These issues are a thorough history of the recent activities of the Newcastle Philatelic Society.

I would like to acknowledge, and publicly thank, all those members (living and deceased) who have contributed to the spreading of society information and events, including in later years the publication of the newsletter, over the past 104 years. Congratulations to every one of you.

This article was prepared by the NPS president Greg Laidler in recognition of the 200th newsletter. The early information was taken from "A HISTORY OF NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY 1918-1993". prepared by Bernard J Doherty.

FROM ISSUE #1, 2000

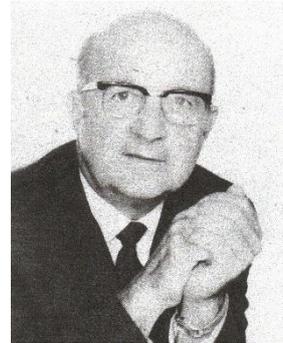
Some things never change! The first newsletter contains a report on a display of Sept 14 by Ron Davis titled *FROM CAPETOWN TO CASABLANCA - AMBLING ACROSS AFRICA*. How many similar displays has Ron given over the years since? But what I found most interesting is Ron's comment on the display. It is so beautifully expressed:

"This display is a very good example of why I started to collect stamps nearly 50 years ago, while I was at school. In my imagination, through their stamps, I could visit remote hardly-ever-heard-of countries I would never have a hope of seeing. I could learn about the countries' history, as well as about their wildlife, industries, people, and scenic attractions. As I looked at each stamp, I imagined that someone had been holding that very stamp in that remote country....."

Well said, Ron.

LOOKING BACK - EDWARD GARRARD

Edward J. Garrard was an honorary life member of the Newcastle Philatelic Society. He was also a member of Philas and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London. Ed had received a Gold Medal Award from the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club in 1964, its highest award for meritorious service to philately, and was nominated for Philatelist of the year in 1980. Garrard was a key organiser for the SYDPEX'80 exhibition and was awarded a Philas Medal for services to the hobby. He had been a collector for over 60 years.



THE ANNUAL COMPETITION - AUGUST, 2004

Five entries were received in August's **Annual Competition** with all being in the experienced section. Entries received were from

Don Catterall – *British Passenger Liners : Great and Small,*

John Moore – *Australian Registered Postal Rates,*

Bernard Doherty – *Australia Post Money Transfer Services,*

Ron Daley with two entries – *Berlin Olympic Games, 1936* and the Competition's winning entry, *Dawn of the Modern Olympics.*



JOHN HILL 2002

Receiving a special award at the Melbourne Stamp Show

Did you know what **Phillumeny** is?? Read and learn!

2005, Wednesday 16th NOVEMBER : DISPLAY BY JOHN MOORE – PHILLUMENY:

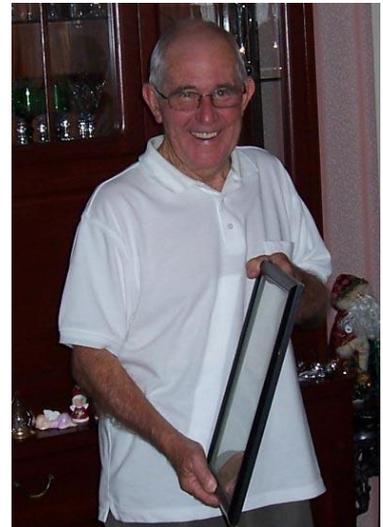
John is the editor of the monthly *Sydney Phillumenists' Club Newsletter* for matchbox collectors. There is also the *Observer* from Melbourne, three times per year. There are now only two such clubs in Australia, with a sub-branch in Adelaide and some collectors in Brisbane.

John's display included matchboxes with songs on the back, quotations, pictures of birds, animals, native costumes, and scenes. There were many "primitive" Indian labels, and many from Bryant and May, who had taken over lots of small match companies, and who produced sets of 64 labels on matchboxes, for collectors.

2006 - DONALD RUTHERFORD receiving a PHILAS Award

Don Rutherford joined the Society on December 7, 1973 and is therefore in his 34th year of membership. He joined the Committee in 1976 and was elected Treasurer in 1977. After four years, Don relinquished the position, due to work commitments, but returned to the Committee in 1986 and was again elected Treasurer in 1987. Don still holds the position today and is currently in his 20th year as Treasurer. Don has also contributed a great deal to our Sale-by-Tender evenings, in the formation of the system used and its operation at each sale.

Don was one of the judges for the Society's Annual Competition for 1990/91 and 92, and again in 2004/05 and 2006. He displayed "Falkland Islands" and "Falkland Island Dependencies" to the members of the Society at monthly meetings and the Daytime meeting. In 1992 Don was elected Vice President of the Society, and in 1993 and 1994 was President. Don served as Treasurer for all four of the national exhibitions staged in Newcastle, and has been to the fore at many exhibitions assisting with the erection and repair of damaged frames at Sydney Centrepoint 95, Pacific Explorer and other exhibitions in Canberra and Melbourne.



Canberra Stampshow 2022

Canberra Stampshow 2022, the twenty-second Biennial National Philatelic Convention staged by the Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc, will be held at Thoroughbred Park, 1 Randwick Road, Lyneham, Canberra on 18-20 March 2022.

The main theme of the exhibition will be *Resilience & Recovery*.

For details see their website

<https://canberrastamps.org/canberra-stampshow-2022-2/>



