



VIEWS FROM NOBBY'S

Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

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

Website : www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au

May 2022 Newsletter 201 EDITOR: Jim MacDougall

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

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

.....

COME TO THE FAIR !!

NEWCASTLE STAMP AND COIN EXPO

Fri May 27 to Sun May 29

Newcastle Showground Exhibition Centre,

The Expo will host the Newcastle *2021 National Philatelic Exhibition*, where collectors display their collections for judging. Also at the Expo are many leading dealers from across Australia ready to sell, buy and give valuations.

Special souvenirs will be available, including an overprinted imperforate miniature sheet, souvenir covers for civil aviation and military aviation, special P-stamps and a new unissued stamp design.

Entry is free. There is unlimited free parking in the showground – enter through the traffic lights on Griffiths Road.

Further information can be found on our website www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au



The beautiful minisheet issued by Australia Post especially for our Expo

MEETING SCHEDULE

Thur 12 MAY: GREG LAIDLER – The 1954 Visit by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh to Australia

Wed 18 MAY: (1) JOHN EDWARDS – Australian Kangaroo Series
(2) PETER CHALKER – Cigarette Cards

Thur 9 JUNE: ANDREW BROCKETT – World War II Military Mail

Wed 15 JUNE: (1) ROSS ZIMMERMAN – Frank Hurley Photographs
(2) GREG WELLS - Australian Antarctic and Other Territories

Thur 14 JULY: VIV MANWARING – Australian Enstamped Envelopes 1900-1937

Wed 20 JULY: (1) DON RUTHERFORD – Sweden: King Facing Right.
(2) SANDRA BAKER – French and British Antarctica

Thur 11 AUG: – Annual General Meeting, annual competition and awards

Wed 17 AUG: (1) BARRY PARKER – Australia and Pacific
(2) JIM MACDOUGALL – Bermuda

Thur 8 SEPT: 75th anniversary of the issue of the 1947 Newcastle Sesquicentenary stamps
members bring 6 pages of Newcastle memorabilia

Wed 22 SEPT: DON CATTERALL - Postcards.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

I find it particularly pleasing to report that our society is growing – in numbers at meetings, in participation, in auction lots and in friendliness. Thanks for this go to the members who bring the food and drink, are displayers, who engage in conversation, who exchange magazines and stamps, and those who make everyone feel welcome. Thank you also to those members who set up the furniture and pack it away again.

Other good news is that our income, from membership fees, auction lotting fees, mini-auctions and donations, is keeping pace with our expenses, such as room hire, affiliation fees, and newsletter printing. To use a new accounting phrase, we are 'revenue positive'.

The expo will be held later this month. After being twice postponed due to covid, all the planning is now done. It will be all hands on deck to welcome the exhibitors, dealers, judges and other officials to Newcastle, and to show them what a wonderful society we are.

We always have a need for displayers. If you believe that you could display, either at a monthly meeting or at a social meeting, please advise secretary John or Ron Davis. They would be pleased to hear from you.

Keep searching for that elusive stamp or cover that would enhance your collection. Stay safe and make sure your vaccinations are up to date. See you at our meetings and the Expo,

Greg Laidler, President

SECRETARY'S SNIPPET

By the time you read this newsletter, after almost 4 years of planning and delays the Newcastle 2022 Stamp and Coin Expo will be only 'days' away. It will be a great show with 430 frames of exhibits from as far away as Bermuda and as near as your next suburb. All our trading stands have been taken with many inter-state, as well as local stamp and coin dealers along with Australia Post and the Australian Philatelic Federation with a range of accessories and souvenir products. Please do not forget that our society has a range of specially produced products for sale, with the proceeds going towards funding this exhibition.

I hope to see you all during the exhibition. Do not forget to bring along your family members to enjoy our great hobby.

- John Moore, Secretary

AUCTION REPORT Thurs, Feb 24

Our first auction since February 2020 was held at the Cameron Park location.. The venue is excellent with plenty of space, plenty of tables, great lighting and plenty of parking. Sadly we failed to attract the usual number of bidders and this could of course be due to Covid more than to the slightly more distant location.

The night went well enough and the 31 bidders spent \$1059 in total on 139 of the 409 lots tabled, the selling rate thus below average at 34%. The lots were provided by 24 sellers and included many donated to the Society. The best Seller of the night was an album of Australian KGVI issues which held a number of very fine Specimen overprints, Arms, Robes etc. This sold for \$130. Next came a nice Penny Black which fetched \$65 after competitive bidding. A NSW One Shilling Charity stamp was bid up to \$42 and a One Shilling WA Swan also sold well at \$33, showing that Colonial issues are still found attractive. There were several sales from around the \$20 mark and I must mention one, that being an enormous tub of Australian stamps which had been checked for varieties - tens of thousands of stamps and too heavy to lift! Late sales kept me busy and added over \$120 to the batch sales I represented.

As always the working team performed admirably and thanks are deserved to all of them as well as to the vendors and the sellers who came along and made this philatelic fun night interesting and successful.

Don Catterall, Convenor

John Hill

On Sunday 20 March we learned of the passing of our member John Hill. He had been a resident at Mayfield Aged Care for a short time. His funeral service was held on Monday 28 March 2022.

John joined the Newcastle Philatelic Society in March 1975, after returning to Newcastle following working in Sydney and London. He was employed by the University of Newcastle, working in Community Education. He was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, and was recognised with a medallion and certificate in 2013 for 50 years as a fellow of 'The Royal'.

John had wide collecting interests, including Christmas Island, Cocos-Keeling Islands, Malta, and world history as portrayed through stamps. He was knowledgeable in all aspects of philately.

John was a gentle, compassionate man who will be missed. We extend our condolences to his wife Anna, who is also a member of the society.

**THE ARCHIBALD – 100 YEARS OLD**

The Archibald Prize for portraiture is the most coveted prize for painting in Australia. It was first awarded in 1921, funded by a bequest from J. F. Archibald, editor of *The Bulletin*. Now worth \$100,000, the Prize has been awarded every year since 1921 except for 1964 and 1980, when the judges decided no entry was worthy. The award is administered by the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

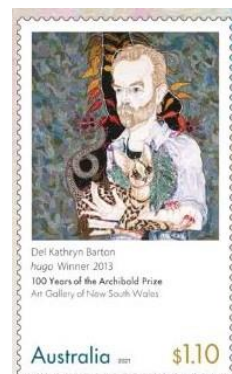
To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Archibald this year, Australia Post has issued a set of stamps reproducing three of the winning paintings. They obviously had many fine examples to select from, but it's hard to argue with their choice, I think.

The painting of actor Hugo Weaving by Del Kathryn Barton, one of 10 female winners over the years, took the Prize in 2013. She is a double winner, having previously won the prize with a self-portrait in 2008.



William Dargie won the Prize in 1956 with a portrait Albert Namatjira, himself a famous Australian artist. Dargie won the Archibald an amazing eight times. This portrait was the last of his eight winners and, in your humble editor's opinion, by far the best of the eight. Coincidentally, Namatjira's great-grandson, Vincent Namatjira, was the 2020 winner.

The third stamp has particular relevance to the Hunter region. William Dobell, a three-time winner, grew up in Cook's Hill and lived for many years in Wangi. The subject of his 1948 winner is Margaret Olley, herself a prominent artist who lived and painted in Newcastle for years. Interestingly, Olley was also the subject of the 2011 winning portrait by Ben Quilty.



Display: NEW ZEALAND ALTERNATIVE MAIL SYSTEMS, PART 2

Ed Bernard Wed, Mar 16

Following changes to the New Zealand Postal Services Act in 1988, companies or individuals could become postal operators provided they were registered with the New Zealand Ministry of Economic Development. About 50 operators have been registered up to the present time, ranging from large groups like *DX Mail*, down to minor companies and individuals involved in local area, cross town and even Uber types of postal deliveries. Nowadays only 16 companies are registered as alternative mail providers. *DX*

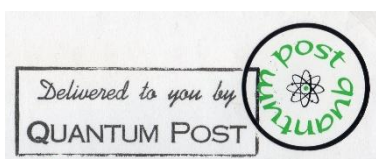
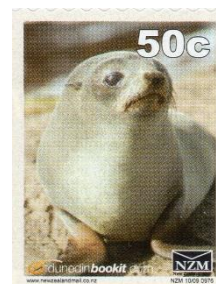


Mail and *New Zealand Mail* are the only two of these that produce stamps for internal national postage and overseas postcard use.



Most of these issued their own stamps and these were the subject of Ed's display. He featured 9 of these providers, and included such items as booklets of Tourism Promotion Scenes and advertisements and animals and birds on *New Zealand Mail* stamps (a sample of their several thousand !!), advertising labels

and Pets and Big Cats on *DX Mail* stamps, children's paintings and flowers on *Pete's Post*, and bungy jumping and albatrosses on *Universal Mail* stamps. A lot of the presentation is of touristy scenic material.



Ed also showed *New Zealand Post* Commercial Advertising Labels - these were introduced in 2004 to counter the challenge by the alternate mail providers who were issuing stamps for business advertising, tourist promotion, societies and social use.

EB/RJD

Display: THE HISTORY OF CANADA

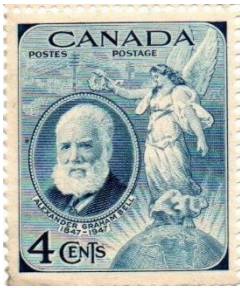
Jim MacDougall Thur, Feb 10



This display portrayed some of the history of Canada as reflected in its postage stamps. The country was first settled by its indigenous people as far back as 20,000 years ago and the French established the first permanent European settlements in 1605. The colonies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Canada (Upper and Lower), Prince Edward Island, British Columbia and Newfoundland all issued their own postage stamps before joining the

confederation. Canada now consists of 10 provinces and three territories and is the country with the second largest land area in the world.





Some of the items in the display illustrated early explorers and settlements, as well as the establishment of the Hudson Bay fur-trading company, the oldest company in North America. Important events in the 1700s were the deportation of thousands of French settlers by the English authorities and, later, the influx after the American Revolution of many thousands of American colonists who were loyal to the English crown.

Canada's first stamp pictured the beaver, now regarded as a symbol of Canada, but in the early days slaughtered in their thousands for their fur. The 1800s saw Nova Scotia become the first colony to establish responsible government, the formation of the Royal

Canadian Mounted Police (the red-coated 'Mounties'), the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell (pictured here) and the famous Klondike gold rush.

Canada's rich history and culture could have given the presenter an excuse for a much longer display!

Display: THE MALDIVES Roger Eggleton Wed, Feb 16

The Republic of Maldives is an archipelago of more than 1000 coral islands, mostly atolls, spread in a north-south chain more than 800 km long and roughly 100 km wide. It straddles the equator in the Indian Ocean some 600 km from the southern tip of India. The maximum altitude is 5m above sea level! The Maldives became a British protectorate in 1887 and remained so until becoming a republic in 1968. Fishing and tourism are the mainstays of its economy.



King Edward VII stamps from Ceylon overprinted 'Maldives' were the first postal issue and appeared in 1906, in six denominations. When this supply was exhausted Ceylon stamps



(not overprinted) were used. By 1909 Maldives had its own stamp issue, picturing a minaret of the world heritage mosque in its capital Malé. Versions of this design persisted for 41 years and were only superseded when a new currency was introduced in 1950. After this, new issues appeared periodically with many attractive stamps picturing local scenery and activities – some very pretty stamps, indeed. The 1956 and 1960 series were particularly nice and to see full sheets was a real treat.



During WWII, the UK established a naval base in the Maldives and a RAF base was maintained until the late 1960s. Roger showed us covers franked with UK stamps and postmarked 'Field Post Office 146' from these bases. In addition we saw unusual rectangular date stamps. The display was colourful and beautifully presented and all-in-all made for an informative and entertaining afternoon. Thanks to Roger.

Display: BRITISH OFFSHORE ISLANDS Ron Davis Thur, Mar 10

The 19 members present saw another selection of material from Ron's seemingly inexhaustible collection of hardly-ever-heard-of places. His choice this time was about 30 of the islands surrounding Britain (even though he has more in his collection!). Some of these used 'local area labels' or private local area posts, often issuing their own stamps. Some such as *Lundy* had an extensive stamp-issuing program over many decades. Others were modest and lasted only a short time. Most no longer produce stamps. Some we knew about – *Skye*, *Lundy*, *Isle of Man*, and the *Channel Islands* are familiar to collectors. But many were unfamiliar. *Eynhallow* is in the Orkneys and the postcards showed us how beautiful it is. *Bardsey* is off the coast of Wales and a postcard showed an aerial view of the island. It is the site of a monastery dating to the 6th century. *Gugh* is one of the Scilly Isles off the tip of Cornwall, and produced rather primitive-looking local labels. The *Calf of Man* is a tiny island near the *Isle of Man* which was privately owned for many years, but



now belongs to the National Trust. It pursues an active philatelic program, producing beautiful stamps, booklets, etc. *Staffa*, in the Hebrides, has produced nice stamps depicting pretty local scenes as well as many irrelevant pictorials. One of my favourites was the round stamp from *Sanda*, made of gold foil.

The likes of *Berneria*, *Hilbre Lewis*, *Davaar*, *Caldey* and *Lihou* would challenge even the best geographers amongst us. Fortunately, Ron always provides map to help us out as well as interesting information about each of the places we visit. He must have spent hours of research. Thanks, Ron.



George Kuszelyk – IRELAND CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Ron Davis – NORTH AFRICA

Wed, April 20

This was the first of our Wednesday meetings which were shared by two presenters, and it worked well. Several more such pairings are planned for the next few months, so if you have something interesting to show but it's not enough to fill a whole meeting, please volunteer to show us at some Wednesday meeting in the future.

George showed us a lovely display of Christmas stamps issued by the Republic of Ireland. The Republic was formed in 1922 and began issuing its own stamps then. Its first Christmas stamp appeared in 1971, the year in which decimal currency was adopted. For the first 10 years or more, the stamps pictured classical artworks. These included some such as Sassoferrato and Pascucci that I was not familiar with. The



1972 issue featured a Madonna-with-child from the famous Book of Kells. Later years brought more contemporary artwork.

In 1974 An Post produced the first government-issue first day cover, and in 1987 began selling Christmas stamps at a discounted price. Coinciding with this, the stamps were printed in minisheets of 13 or 14; many of these were quite beautiful indeed. By 2010, in a departure from tradition, Christmas stamps were produced only in rolls and booklets, not in sheets. George's theme was an interesting choice and the display was a pleasure to look at. It may be a bit early yet, but best Christmas wishes to all our members - *Nollaig Shona!*



Ron Davis filled out the afternoon with stamps from a selection of countries in North Africa. Some were ones we knew well such as Tunisia (showing stamps with overprints in Arabic) and Algeria (showing scenes of mountains and desert). Others were less well known, such as Alexandria and Port Said (cities in Egypt but stamp-issuing jurisdictions nonetheless) and Tangier (a city in Morocco that issued pretty stamps). Others I had not heard of at all: Ceuta and Melilla are both Spanish enclaves on the coast of Morocco. Holdovers from the colonial era, their ownership is disputed by Morocco. Ceuta is thought to be one of the 'Pillars of Hercules' of antiquity, being across the Strait from Gibraltar. As always, Ron's display was interesting and informative.



AUCTION REPORT. April 2022

Our second auction of the year went very well despite quite a few regulars being out of town. We still managed to field 34 bidders and there was a great mix of material for them to savour. The 21 vendors had presented 398 lots and of these 159 were sold, resulting in a quite satisfactory 40% clearance.

Best buy of the night by far was a fine used imprint block of four of the One Pound Robes issue. Even at a solid reserve quite a few hands shot up and it was eventually sold for \$125. Next highest was a One Pound Grey 3rd Watermark Specimen Kangaroo which sold for \$80.

Five similar batches of MUH decimal stamps each sold for \$45, destined for postage and picked up for less than 50% face value. At \$40 two lots sold, the first being a NSW 1898 Charity label and the other a binder containing 73 pre loved Hagner sheets. Two lots also went for \$35 each – one was an interesting album of early world stamps and the other a well-stocked decimal Australian hingeless album.

At \$30 there were three sales, a One Pound Navigator used on cover, a nice page of early fine used Kangaroos and then an album of PNG. Sales at \$25 included a MUH Large Lyrebird, a NSW Registration label and a lovely set of KGV Leeward Islands MUH. Certainly plenty of decent quality material lotted on this night resulting in a sales total of \$1637.

Late sales as usual kept me busy but we still managed to get everything tidied away well before 10pm. It is great to have such willing helpers on deck, my thanks to the team and also to the vendors and of course the buyers. A date has not yet been set for our next auction.

Don Catterall, Auction Convenor

POPULAR CHOICE COMPETITION:

LETTER 'D'

Thurs Apr 15

This year we were asked to produce a six-page display on a topic beginning with the letter 'D'. As always, the competition brought out an imaginative variety of topics. This was the second year of our new voting system, with three categories: *Classic or Traditional Philately, Presentation & Arrangement* and *Interesting Theme and Content*. This proved a good idea again this year since we ended up with three different winners. For the 2nd year in a row **Ed Burnard** was the winner in the Traditional Philately category with a beautiful display of the NSW Diadem issue. **Ross Zimmerman** was hands-down winner in the Presentation & Arrangement category. In the Theme and Content category, 10 entries received votes, with **George Kuszelyk** and **Don Catterall** narrowly edging out the others. It was a most enjoyable afternoon for the 19 members attending! I'm already wondering what our members will produce next year with the letter 'E'.

LETTER 'D' ENTRIES

Roger Eggleton The letter **D**
Greg Laidler 5¢ Hooded Dotterel
Jim MacDougall Decimal Currency in Canada
Ross Zimmerman Dragonflies and Damselflies
George Kuszelyk Poland's Desert Forces Mail
Carol Davis The Donkey
Peter Chalker Defence Series 1 - 1939 Cigarette Cards
Don Catterall Disaster in San Francisco
Don Rutherford NSW Duplex Obliterators
Russell Goddard Davis Research Station
Russell Goddard Ron Davis
Warren Oliver NSW Cancels beginning with 'D'
Ed Burnard NSW Diadem Issue
Ron Davis Datestamps from Diminutive Places

The stamps of the world are powerful object lessons in the eternal hunger of men for knowledge and news about their fellow men. They are a pictorial history of all the arts and sciences, and human progress, since the earliest civilizations.

- US President Dwight Eisenhower

Empire Classics

New Zealand's first set of commemorative stamps was issued in 1906 to coincide with the Christchurch International Exhibition of Arts and Industries. The four stamps (½d, 1d, 3d and 6d) illustrated the country's history, including its Maori culture. The most interesting aspect of these stamps is that they were sold only at the Exhibition's post office which was open for the six months of the Exhibition, so most covers with these stamps bear that cancellation. As soon as the 1d stamps were printed (in claret) it was decided that the colour needed to be changed to vermillion, and the claret stamps were destroyed. Except for one sheet that made its way into circulation and made the 1d claret one of New Zealand's rarest!



CENTENARY OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE 1921 - 2021



Produced by the Newcastle Philatelic Society for the
2022 Newcastle Philatelic Exhibition 27-29 May 2022



One of three exclusive covers available at the Expo