



VIEWS FROM NOBBY'S

Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

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

Website : www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au

February 2023 Newsletter 205 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

Next Auction

Thurs, March 23

Viewing at 7:00, selling at 8:00

at Pasterfield Centre

Members set-up at 6:00

Upcoming Events

15 FEBRUARY Wed: social meeting, DON RUTHERFORD – *Pot Pourri*

19 FEBRUARY Sun: WALLSEND STAMP FAIR, 10:00-3:00 Pioneer Hall, Cowper St, Wallsend

9 MARCH Thur: monthly meeting, VIV MANWARING – *enstamped KGVI and QEII*

15 MARCH Wed: social meeting, JOHN EDWARDS – *Australian Kangaroo series*

13 APRIL Thur: monthly meeting, MEMBERS' CHOICE COMPETITION – *Popular Choice, 6 pages on a topic starting with letter 'E'*

20 APRIL Wed: social meeting, ED BURNARD – *A Couple of Australian States*

11 MAY Thur: monthly meeting, GEORGE KUSZELYK – *Polish Airgraphs*

17 MAY Wed: social meeting, ROGER EGGLETON – *Canada Special Delivery*

8 JUNE Thur: monthly meeting, GEORGE CHALMERS – *TBA*

21 JUNE Wed : social meeting, RON DAVIS – *Cruising the Caribbean*

Popular Choice Competition

The monthly meeting on Thursday April 13 features the annual alphabetic competition. This year brings the letter 'E', so members are invited to prepare six pages on any topic starting with the letter E. The displays are voted on by those present and there are three categories on which to judge the displays: *Classic or Traditional Philately, Presentation & Arrangement* and *Interesting Theme and Content*. Last year there were three different winners; let's see how it turns out this year. For me, this is the most enjoyable meeting of the year.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Welcome to 2023. I hope it is a happy and healthy year for you, and those that you care about. And of course a good year for collecting.

This year promises to be another busy year. Each monthly meeting has an interesting display and auctions that feature a wide range of stamps, covers and albums. At all meetings there is the opportunity to socialise with other collectors over a cuppa and cake.

Planning is underway for our society auctions and swap & sale nights. Watch the COMING EVENTS section on our website for dates. These dates are also announced at our monthly meetings.

Publicity now extends to StampBoards and one Facebook group. Our own website is always up to date. To grow our membership, and to learn more about our hobby, we need to attract new members. Membership is a challenge that will never go away.

Enjoy 2023, stay healthy, keep looking for that elusive item. I look forward to catching up with you at our next meeting.

Greg Laidler, President

SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS.

I have been meaning to put something together for the next Newsletter. Welcome to 2023 which I am sure we will all find will be another busy year for us all as we look for new items for our collections and maybe even start collecting a new theme or country.

Talking of themes, a reminder that our April activity is a continuation of our displays of 6 pages using letters of the alphabet, this year it is the letter E. I am sure many of you have already had your thinking caps on and it will not surprise to see a number of topics that many of us may not have even thought of.

Many of you will be aware that the Philatelic Association of NSW has sold and vacated the three floors they owned at 17 Brisbane Street, Darlinghurst. The organisation is in the process of purchasing new premises which will be fitted out to suit the needs of Philas. In the meantime, the contact details remain the same with mail and telephone number diversions in place.

Philatelic regards, John Moore, Secretary

AUCTION NIGHT Nov 30, 2022

Our November auction went well with a lively crowd including 36 bidders, all keen to pick up some gems from the 293 lots up for grabs. I'm sure most of the 19 sellers would have been more than happy as 136 lots were sold with a clearance rate of 46% and most of the higher priced items on offer found a buyer.

Total sales reached \$1,403 and this figure was bolstered by those higher sales. Top sale of the night was \$70, paid for a KGV1 set from Mauritius. This reign also produced sales of \$50 for Seychelles, \$45 for St. Lucia and \$30 for Somaliland, all lovely MLH KGV1 full sets.

Colonials once again were popular with a Tasmanian batch fetching \$40 and two Queen Victoria OS South Australian stamps also going for \$40. Yet another \$40 lot that sold was a FU £2 Navigator ! An Australian pre decimal stockbook with quite a number of the nicer items went for \$35 whilst a very neat One Penny Black came next, fetching \$30. Other \$30 sales were: an overprinted set from North Borneo and a 2015 Australia Post Year Book. Finally two items sold for \$25 - a scarce 1931 First Flight cover, followed by a superb VFU strip of three 1st wmk two penny Kangaroos.

As you can see, there was as we promote "Something for Everyone". It was a good night and all the team worked extra well as they always do. Our auctioneer Tony Walker got a good clap for his efforts. Our next Auction will be in February 2023, so we hope to see you all again in February.

Don Catterall, Auction Convenor

**CHRISTMAS PARTY
Wed Dec 14**

This year, departing from a long tradition, we held our Christmas get-together at lunchtime. The Pasterfield centre was a good venue with lots of space and a convenient kitchen. Everyone brought food, and we had more than we could eat. A special thanks is due to Tony and Wendy for lots of preparation including decorating the tables. There were 19 members and guests present and the usual round of show-and-tell was held, producing a remarkable range of interesting items: royal tour souvenirs, a wooden Mickey Mouse on a tricycle, a book from the Berlin Olympics, bamboo artworks from Indonesia, a pair of oxen shoes, St Nicholas postcards, and a souvenir from the Dunbar wreck.



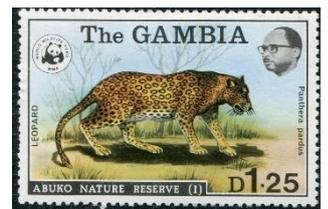
Much good conversation occurred and the day was topped off by a spirited recitation of *The Night Before Christmas* by Don Catterral.

**ALL AROUND THE COAST OF AFRICA – Ron Davis
Wed, Jan 18**

Ron's display was going to have every stamp-issuing entity in Africa displayed by only one page per country, including all the old country names. However, while there are around 59 current countries in Africa, he eventually got to well over 100 pages. For instance, Zambia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe have had 17 previous names!

So this display was restricted to countries around the COAST of Africa – many of them in the "Hardly-ever Heard Of" basket. These included such obscure places as Inini, Quelimane, La Aguera, Fezzan, Rio de Oro, Ifni, Obock, Benadir, Inhambane, Witu, Kionga, Biafra and Lourenco Marques – all now absorbed by current countries.

As always, Ron provided lots of maps to help us locate these places. Even the most geographically savvy of us needed help placing some of these. Thanks to Ron for another educational display.



New Member Tony Ayaz has recently joined the NPS. Welcome, Tony!

**AUSTRALIAN PRE-PAID PO LABELS – Jeff Kaiser
AROUND ANTARCTICA – Ron Davis
Wed, Jan 18**

This meeting featured another double-header. We started with Jeff's collection of Post Office pre-paid labels. These were printed at each post office for the amount of postage required for an item – just an alternative for stamps. Each label showed the name of the post office and the date and time of purchase. Jeff's collection covers several hundred post offices, and he showed us a subset containing one for each letter of the alphabet (except for the elusive 'X') as well as a number from the Newcastle and Lower Hunter region. The labels showed a remarkable variety of values – the smallest



I noticed was 45¢ and the largest \$8.90. Whatever amount was needed was printed. A few labels also showed the weight and the postcode of the destination. The earliest use of these labels was 1994 and the latest 2008. An amazing variety of post offices; from Bogangar (where's that?) to Jamison shopping mall in Canberra!

Ron Davis then followed with another of his geographical themes; this time Antarctica.

This included a number of the islands in the Southern ocean as well as many of the scientific bases on Antarctica itself. His display had at least 20 different sources of mail from the region – an eye-opener for this viewer. As well as Heard Island, Macquarie Island and Prince Edward Island (a South African territory), we saw a stamp from Tierra del Fuego – the only stamp it issued! There were covers from many bases on the continent itself, including Davis base in the Australian sector. Ron had items from the NZ-administered Victoria Land and King Edward VII Land, both of which are scarce. Along with Queen Maud land, administered by Norway, we had Terre Adelie, administered by the French.



Visit to Maitland Stamp Club

On the second Monday in December, a number of us made the trip to Maitland for our annual interclub visit. The format included six page displays from each visitor and these were introduced and all well received. A generous smorgasbord spread of tasty morsels was then provided, along with plenty of philatelic fellowship. Time well spent !

Don C.

POT POURRI – Russell Goddard
Wed, Nov 16

Russell's display was a mixture of several themes. Much of it dealt with Queen Elizabeth II. We had stamps and covers from many countries picturing her and aspects of her life such as her wedding, royal visits and royal castles. In addition he focussed on Queen's Birthday issues over the years. Also included were some attractive coins and nice sheetlets. The highlight was a photo of Russell speaking to the Queen!

There was a group of stamps and covers featuring 'Legends of Music'. Mainly from the 2013 series. They included Paul Kelly, Kylie Minogue and the Seekers, among others. Shown here is the late Olivia Newton-John.



Also presented was a selection from Russell's collection of Canadian First Flight Covers. These were mainly from the 1930s, the period of rapid expansion in air mail. There were descriptions of the flights along with covers with official cachets, some quite attractive. Many of these flights visited tiny outposts in the wilderness, including places I've never heard of such as Kewagama, Whitefish Bay and Port Menier, some only accessible by float plane.

Russell's detailed commentary added greatly to the interest. An interesting and informative display.

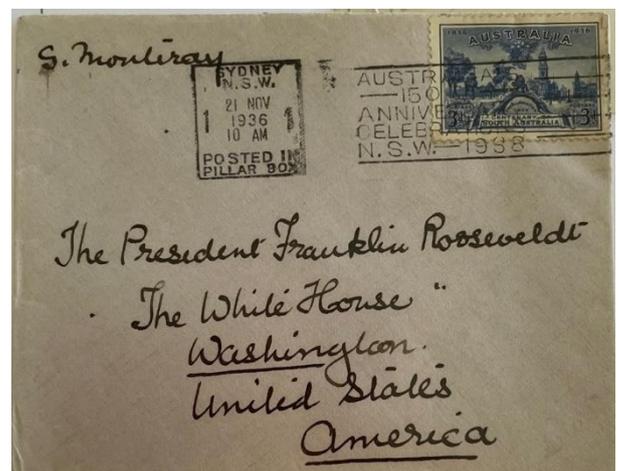


SOUTH AUSTRALIA CENTENARY – Greg Laidler
Thur, Nov 10

The first European settlers of South Australia landed in 1836, and they were free settlers, not convicts. In 1936 the Centenary of settlement was celebrated and, naturally enough, the PMG issued a set of stamps for the occasion. The set consisted of 2d, 3d and 1shilling stamps picturing the Proclamation Tree with the modern city of Adelaide in the background.

Greg's display showed detail of the printing of the sheets as well as a large collection of covers illustrating various usages of the stamps.

We saw First Flight covers, postage dues, registered letters and First Day covers. There was even a cover stamped 'Damaged by Sea Water'! Most impressive were three letters addressed to President Roosevelt of the USA. There were also two covers signed by Nancy Bird and carried on the Centenary air race from Brisbane to Adelaide.



This remarkable collection was beautifully presented and accompanied by interesting commentary on the subject. Greg always seems to ferret out an impressive range of material on whatever topic he is displaying. Thanks to Greg for an excellent display.



DON CATTERALL'S QUIZ Thur, Dec 8

A feature of this meeting was the annual Quiz presented by Don Catterall. This has become an annual tradition, much anticipated by members. This year's quiz consisted of 24 numbered items, mainly about stamps but also a few postcards. Three questions were asked of each item. Here is one of the items, a stamp from the *Sentimental Bloke* Series.

- Q9 (a) Who is this chap?
- (b) What was the name of his girlfriend?
- (c) Who wrote the Poem?

The answers were: (a) The Bloke (b) Doreen. (c) C J Dennis

Prizes were awarded for first and second From a possible score of 72, the winner Roger Eggleton got 32 right, followed by John Edwards with a score of 30. A good bit of fun, as always!

The quiz was followed by the popular mini auction.



Philas Moves House!

As John mentioned in the Secretary's Snippets, the Philatelic Association of New South Wales (better known as Philas) is moving out of the premises on Brisbane St in Darlinghurst that it has inhabited for 45 years. The new premises located in Silverwater will be more suitable from several points of view. We look forward to seeing the new digs.

By the way, some members may not know that John has recently been elected President of Philas. Congratulations, John!

Little Stamps

New member Tony Ayaz sent me pictures of some stamps that have caught his fancy. I am showing a couple of them here. Why? Because they are among the **smallest** stamps I have seen. I also found a tiny stamp, the Canadian 'small queen' half-cent, in my own collection. I would like to hear if members know of other tiny stamps like these.



I remember having the Berlin stamp in my collection when I was a child and even then being curious because I knew that Berlin was only a city, not a country. Now I know that this stamp, issued in 1948, has an interesting story. After the defeat of Germany in WWII, each of Britain, France, USA and USSR administered a section of the country, the Russian sector becoming known as East Germany. Berlin was in East Germany but was a separate region itself divided into four regions. Relations between USSR and the western powers became so bad that the Russians blockaded Berlin from June 1948 to May 1949, and the only access to it was by air. To help relieve the economic burden caused by the blockade, West Germans were required to pay a 2 pfennig tax on every piece of mail. So our little blue stamp is actually a revenue tax stamp rather than a postage stamp.

Although the blockade lasted less than a year, the stamp remained in use until 1954. This probably explains why almost every collector of our generation had a copy as a child! Printing resulted in four major types, each with constant varieties, so there's lots here for an interested collector.

Empire Classics

India's earliest postage stamps were printed locally by the East India Company, which had the monopoly on carrying mail to and from British India. After a short trial of the unsatisfactory wax-covered 'Scinde Dawk' stamp, the Company decided to use lithography to produce stamps featuring Queen Victoria. The resulting set had half anna, one anna and two anna stamps of the design shown here, and a four anna stamp with a different design. The four anna was printed in two colours - the first ever in the British Empire. Two colours required separate dies and inevitably errors occurred when the head die was placed upside-down in the frame die and the result was inverted centre varieties as shown here.



Upcoming Exhibitions:

New Zealand 2023, FIAP, Auckland, 4 - 7 May 2023

Hobart National Single Frame Exhibition, 19 - 21 May 2023

Taipei 2022, 11 - 15 August 2023

Perth National Exhibition, 2 - 5 November 2023

Thailand 2023, 23 - 28 November

Today's Website

<https://www.stamp-collecting-world.com/>

This site was created by a man named David Aeschliman. It is called **Stamp Collecting World** and he describes it as a *Philatelic and Stamp Collecting Information Database*. It certainly is that, with information on collecting, supplies, albums, catalogues, forgeries, buying and selling, philatelic terms and more. Every topic has good information and lots of links to other websites.

What a great site. Don't go to it unless you have lots of time to spare!