



VIEWS FROM NOBBY'S

Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

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

Website : www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au

May 2023 Newsletter 206 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

Auctions

Material that has been donated to the Society is being auctioned at the Monthly Meetings (Thursdays). Highlights can be seen of what's coming up in May and June on our website <https://newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au/>

Upcoming Events

- 11 MAY Thur – monthly meeting, GEORGE KUSZELYK – *Polish Airgraphs*
- 17 MAY Wed – social meeting, ROGER EGGLETON – *Canada Special Delivery*
- 21 MAY.- Sun – WALLSEND STAMP FAIR, 10:00-3:00 Pioneer Hall, Cowper St, Wallsend
- 8 JUNE Thur – monthly meeting, GREG LAIDLER – *Postal Uses of the 1927 Opening of Parliament stamp*
- 18 JUNE Sun – WALLSEND STAMP FAIR, 10:00-3:00 Pioneer Hall, Cowper St, Wallsend
- 21 JUNE Wed – social meeting, JIM MACDOUGALL – *Jamaica*
- 13 JULY Thur – monthly meeting, George Chalmers, *Errors on Stamps*
- 16 JULY Sun – WALLSEND STAMP FAIR, 10:00-3:00 Pioneer Hall, Cowper St, Wallsend
- 19 JULY Wed – social meeting, RON DAVIS, *Cruising the Caribbean*
- 10 AUGUST Thur – *Annual General Meeting, Annual Competition, awards*
- 18 AUGUST Wed – social meeting, GEORGE CHALMERS, *Pre-cancelled United States*
- 14 SEPTEMBER Thur – monthly meeting, JOHN MOORE, *Zanzibar Air Mails*
- 20 SEPTEMBER Wed – social meeting, CHRIS ASHHURST-SMITH *tba* & RON DAVIS, *Around the Himalayas*
- 12 OCTOBER Thur – monthly meeting, guest displayer
- 18 OCTOBER Wed – social meeting, DON CATTERALL, *Postcards*

New Publication

Congratulations to Greg Laidler, our President, on finishing his publication on the 1927 'Parliament House' stamp – a mammoth effort. See Page 8 for details.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

This year has started very busy. The interesting displays have been a highlight. So far we have had one society auction, held again on a Thursday night, as well as our monthly meetings and social meetings. Our major Thursday night auction was hampered by heavy rain, which may have kept some sellers and buyers away.

This is part of a larger issue. Almost everyone now has access to computer-based platforms for buying and selling, such as eBay, Delcampe and HipStamp. Auctions such as PHILAS are well attended by our members. What does this mean for our auctions, our swap and sale nights, and our revenue stream that we need to pay the rent?

We have also noticed an increase in the number of requests for assistance in disposing of stamp collections. Some are accumulations of Australia Post products of the 1970s and 1980s, others have some merit as collections. The decline in interest in our hobby is reflected in the demand, and prices obtained, for this material. There are a lot of unhappy sellers out there - importantly, they are not stamp collectors, but non-collectors selling an estate.

In the coming months maybe we should start a discussion on what this means for our activities. We may have to alter what we do to stay relevant and viable.

On a brighter note, our meetings are friendly and informative. Our attendance is rising. Great displays, new friendships, and a cuppa have all played a part. Thanks to everyone involved. Watch the COMING EVENTS and the AUCTION section on our website for updates.

I look forward to catching up with you at our next meeting.

Greg Laidler, President

SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS.

A lot is happening on the organised Philatelic front in NSW. As many of you are aware the Philatelic Association of NSW, better known as PHILAS, has sold and vacated their premises in Brisbane Street, Darlinghurst and are now fitting out new premises, which will not only be modern but will have the very best of facilities for stamp collectors. There will be regular updates on the PHILAS website, www.philas.net.au that will keep you informed as to when PHILAS is up and running in the new premises.

A recent Executive Committee meeting of PHILAS agreed that PHILAS would waive the Reaffiliation and Public Liability Insurance fees for 2023/24. Clubs will still be required to supply details of how many financial members they have, meeting details and services they offer. Paperwork for this will be sent out mid-year.

Congratulations are extended to our hardworking President Greg Laidler for his most recent publication, *The Printing and Production of the 1927 'Opening of Parliament House' Stamp*. This 214-page publication is an in-depth study of the 1½d 'Canberra 1927' stamp and is profusely illustrated throughout with considerable research throughout.

One thing that I have noticed is the keenness of our members to participate in competitions. At the recent letter **E** competition 20 entries were received, which as far as I can recall is a record for the 32 years that this competition has been running. Many of the entries have scope for development into much larger exhibits that would be worthy of entry into national level exhibitions. On the subject of national exhibitions, the next to be held is in Hobart 19-21st May. Six of the 12 entries from New South Wales are from Newcastle residents!

Philatelic regards, John Moore, Secretary

AUCTION NIGHT Mar 23, 2023

Reminiscent of a similar night a couple of years back, we were once again plagued with atrocious weather. Lovely all day until just after 5 pm when the heavens opened with both rain and wind making driving hazardous. Hoping it would pass over we headed for the venue and set everything up. Others had also braved the storm and soon all was ready to go with all of us rather hoping that some buyers might turn up. Thankfully quite a number did and we ended up with about thirty souls on deck, probably our smallest turn out ever. 21 vendors had provided 335 lots and of these 133 were sold, a somewhat low clearance rate of 40% but who

could complain on such a night. Total sales realised was \$1460, this amount being bolstered by quite a lot of higher value sales. \$60 was paid for a complete collection of fine used KGV stamps and \$50 for a huge used accumulation on Hagners of earlier New Zealand. A superb batch of lots of rarer South Australian and Victorian high values sold well with six lots realising from \$55 down to \$25. Colonies were indeed popular with a couple of nice NSW items also selling for \$40 and \$25. The Buy of the Night was a huge stockbook full of NSW numerals which went for a meagre \$35 to a delighted buyer. A MLH 1938 KGV set of Malta sold for \$30 as did a most attractive omnibus collection of British Empire stamps in silver. Finally another 5 items sold for \$25 each -certainly plenty of excellent material available on this night. Tribute must go to all who braved the weather to turn up and no one could be blamed for showing more caution. It turned out to be a very good night and the working team made it all go so smoothly. Well done indeed to everyone! See you next time.

Don Catterall, Auction Convenor

New Member Paul Killen has recently joined the Society. We are always happy to have new members. Welcome, Paul!

**POT POURRI – Don Rutherford
Wed, Feb 15**

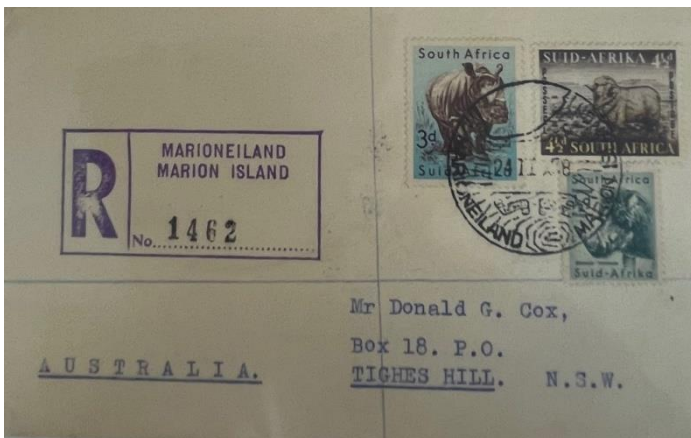
What a delightful Pot this was! Don brought along a lovely collection of goodies for the 16 attendees to enjoy. His collection seems to contain a little bit of everything!

The oldest material was a nice collection of NSW covers (as early as 1861): registered mail, certified mail, postage due and dead letter office, along with a newspaper wrapper. Then came a collection of KGV items, including booklet sheets, non-booklet sheetlets, imprint blocks and First Day Covers.

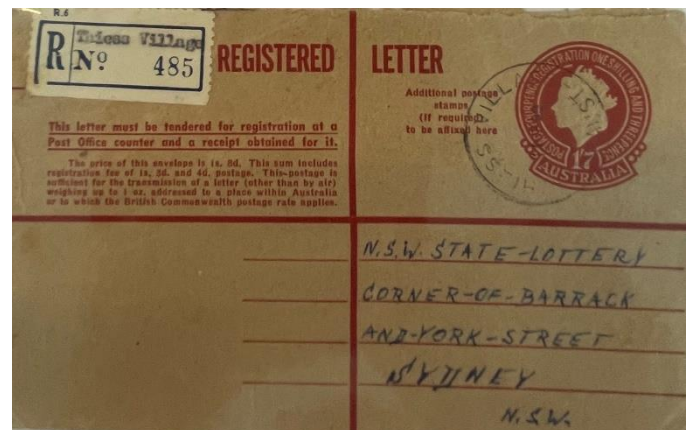


There was a registered letter from Thiess Village, a post office set up especially for the Snowy Mountain workers.

A beautiful set of 15 from British Antarctic Territory featured southern explorers from many countries.



These included Ross, Cook, Larsen and Shackleton. From Falkland Island Dependencies came a nice set of colourful overprinted ships commemorating the Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1956-58. Continuing the southern theme were items featuring the South African weather station of Gouch Island and Marionland (with a special decorative date stamp).



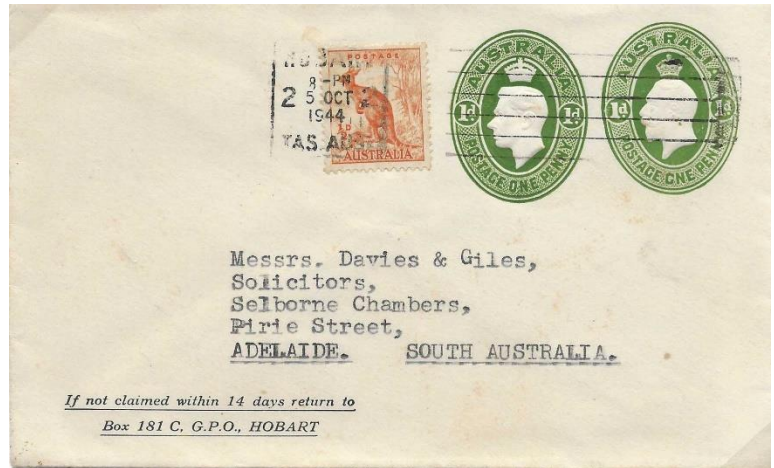
Don showed us the first Australian telegram forms, from 1917, a wonderful collection of bicentennial mini-sheets from USA and postal cards, pre-cancels and embossed envelopes from USA. And there were more delights. Thanks to Don for a most entertaining display.

AUSTRALIAN ENSTAMPED ENVELOPES KGVI & QEII – Viv Manwaring
Thur, Mar 9

This interesting display followed on from Viv's display last July 2022 which dealt with the period 1901-1936. It included envelopes issued by the Post Office, envelopes specifically for distribution to UPU member countries, envelopes stamped to Private Order and envelopes for Official use.

The first item in the display was a Private Order doubleton comprising 1d green KGV and 1d green KGVI (pictured) which is the only instance of a scarce mixed reign embossing – only six examples are recorded.

Also shown was a rarely-seen 1950 3d red KGVI Post Office envelope 120x95mm size for folded



quarto mail. This size envelope was first issued in 1929 (1½d red KGV) and was discontinued in 1950.

Two 1960 5d light blue QEII Private Order envelopes were shown, for Bell's Asbestos and Engineering Ltd (postmarked Mar 28 1963) and Tuck's Asbestos Products P/L (postmarked May 8 May 1961).

Another scarce item in the display was a 1967 5c dark blue QEII Post Office issue envelope (see picture), postmarked Oct 5 1967 at Australian FPO3 Vung Tau, Vietnam. These were specifically for Australian Forces serving in Vietnam at the concessional airmail postage rate, and had a short life, being withdrawn on 1 September 1968 when free postage for troops was introduced.



The display concluded with two Private Order envelopes for the Philatelic Exhibition Council of NSW (Sydpex 80) comprising doubleton 2x10c red QEII and 20c magenta QEII. These two envelopes were used for mailings to supporting members in 1979 and 1980, and were produced with special approval after the general cessation of Private Order stamping in 1978.

New Charles III Stamps

The UK has issued its first stamps showing the silhouette of the new king these are shown on the next page. These were issued on Mar 23 of this year, and this marks the first change in silhouette since 1968. The silhouette was designed by illustrator Andrew Davidson. The first definitive issue featuring the King's portrait will follow shortly.



AUSTRALIAN KANGAROO AND MAP STAMPS - John Edwards

Wed, Mar 15

The first series of postage stamps produced by Australia as a country was issued on Jan 2, 1913. There had been a public competition to choose a design but it failed to produce any that excited the PMG. Artist Blamire Young was then commissioned to produce some designs, and the final choice by the PMG was based on Young's efforts. The resulting kangaroo-on-map stamp became an icon of Australian philately and was easily recognisable around the world.

The design remained in use for a remarkable 35 years. Not surprisingly, it underwent a lot of colour changes and paper changes and produced a large number of varieties for collectors. Surprisingly, though, all stamps were produced from the same original die, with separate plugs used for the numerals and words of value; most of the varieties resulted just from wear and damage to the die. Significantly, the stamps were designed, printed and perforated in Australia.

John's display was a very comprehensive collection of these changes and variations. In particular, the various papers used resulted in at least five different watermarks. Printing over so many years produced a huge range of colour variations, and John had lots of examples of these. Many of John's stamps were clearly difficult to find. As well as showing us examples of all of these, John had brought his home-made light-box for easily checking large numbers of stamps for watermarks – a very useful invention. A top notch display – thanks, John.



An interesting background article on these stamps can be found at:
<https://www.australianculture.org/the-kangaroo-and-map-stamps/>

MEMBERS' CHOICE COMPETITION - THE LETTER 'E'

Thur, April 13

This meeting featured our annual alphabetical challenge – we were challenged to produce 6 pages on any topic whatsoever provided it started with the letter 'E'. Members outdid themselves this year, with 20 entries, probably the most we've ever had. The variety of topics members think up always amazes me, and this year was no different. Here they are:

- Jim MacDougall Edwardian Commercial Covers
- Warren Oliver Entires from NSW
- Greg Korsman Egypt Origin & Destination Crashed Mail
- Ed Burnard The "Emblems" Victoria 1857 - 1863

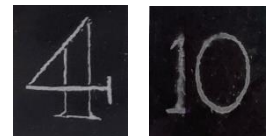
Ross Zimmerman	Endeavour - Voyage of Discovery
George Chalmers	QEII - Great Britain
Paul Killen	Elizabeth Windsor from Eclectic Islands
George Kuszelyk	Essays from Poland
George Kuszelyk	Europa
Don Rutherford	Envelopes from Australia
Carol Davis	Exotically Feathered Birds
Ron Davis	European Ecclesiastical Buildings
Ron Davis	Early Newcastle
Don Catterall	Louis Levy in Egypt
Greg Laidler	E for Elizabeth, The Queen Mother
Russell Goddard	Emergency Air Mail Service 1971
Roger Eggleton	Letter E
Jeff Kaiser	I Spy with my Little Eye Something beginning with E
Jeff Kaiser	Postage Paid Labels beginning with E
Paul Killen	First Day Covers Letters beginning with E

The winners were chosen by popular vote of the 19 members attending, and this year's results were close in all three categories. Warren Oliver and Ed Burnard were tied as best in the *Traditional Philately* aspect with 5 votes each. In the *Presentation and Arrangement* category Roger Eggleton with 5 votes just edged out 2nd place finisher Don Catterall. And for *Interesting Theme and Content* Greg Korsman, Ross Zimmerman, Ron Davis and Roger Eggleton all were best with 3 votes each. The spread of votes among so many different entries indicates the big effort members put in, and I am already looking forward to the letter **F** next year.

A COUPLE OF AUSTRALIAN STATES – Ed Burnard
Wed, April 20



Well, what a treat this was! Ed showed us the highlights of his collections of Victoria and Tasmania and both were quite spectacular. Victoria's first issue (in 1850) consisted of 1d, 2d and 3d stamps, for local, colonial and ship letters respectively. This was followed by the queen-on-throne design in

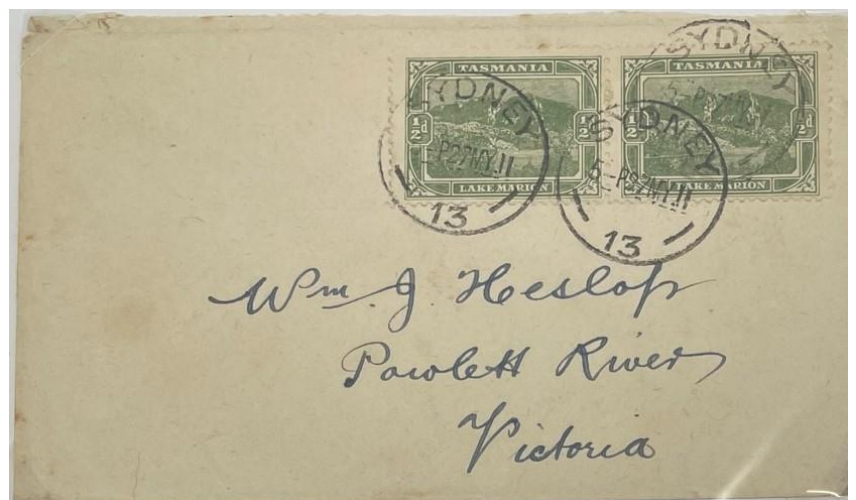


1853 and Ed had many of the varieties of these early issues. One that particularly attracted me was the 1854 one shilling woodblock issue – an octagonal design. Some issues had numerical watermarks which I had not seen before. He showed us 'stamp statute' stamps and hospital charity stamps. Many stamps were used both postally and fiscally.

The Tasmanian collection was equally impressive. The first issue, in 1853, was labelled 'Van Diemen's Land' and printed



by the local newspaper, the Hobart Town Courier, in imperforate sheets of 24. Tasmania produced fewer design changes over the years, but a big variety of watermarks, perforations and



shades. The stamps in the 1892 keyplate set are very attractive. And the 1899 set of pictorials are real classics, with the beautifully engraved versions much better than the later typographed ones. All in all, a stunning collection.

The Longest Stamp Ever Issued?

Kyrgyzstan is not high on the list of most collectors' interests. However it has made itself known in 2023 by issuing what it claims to be the longest stamp in the world. Shown here in its actual size, it would cover much of a standard envelope. To be precise, it is 184 millimetres wide. The stamp has a value of 250 Kyrgystani Som, which is equivalent to about A\$4.25.



Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous, landlocked country in Central Asia, bordered by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China. The stamp features the Chaar-Tash ridge, the Toguz-Toro Tract and the village of Kazarman. Kyrgyz Express Post reports that it was issued to mark the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development, which was recognized in 2022. The shape of the stamp does seem appropriate to portray the long ridges of mountains that characterise the country.

NEWLY RELEASED

The culmination of 6½ years research and study of over 12,000 used stamps, together with many blocks and sheets (at least 2 sheets from each plate).

A4 size, 214 pages, printed on quality paper, spiral bound to open flat, 17mm thick, weighs 872g.

Pages 2 - 47 – the production of the printing plates, how these stamps were printed, and the casual and constant flaws that are found on these stamps.

Pages 48 - 52 – how to identify of each of the 12 plates.

Pages 53 - 214 – checklist of over 200 constant plate varieties, including composite drawings to allow for quick identification of varieties.

Available from Ken & Kerry Pullen, **Bexley Stamp & Coin Accessories**, by mail order or when they attend the Stamp and Coin Shows at Petersham, Wallsend, Wagga Wagga, Canberra, Carlingford and Brisbane.

And from the author Greg Laidler, P O Box 2068, Elermore Vale NSW 2287. (Previously known as Wallsend South, both names recognised by the Post Office). Email glaidler@bigpond.com Payment by paypal, direct deposit (BSB 082-612, ac 171016605), money order. Please send separate email with postal address. Books packed with bubble wrap, posted with tracking.

Cost of book \$50, please pay \$15 towards postage unless picking up from Bexley Stamp Accessories at a Stamp and Coin Fair.

THE PRINTING AND PRODUCTION
OF THE
1927 'OPENING OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE'
STAMP



INCLUDING A CHECKLIST OF VARIETIES

Greg Laidler

Book
\$50

Postage
\$15

Empire Classics

Most of the new stamps issued when King Edward VII took the throne in 1901 were simply the old Queen Victoria designs with Edward's picture replacing that of Victoria. In 1910 however, it was decided to design a new 2¢ stamp. The stamp became known by its colour – the **Tyrian Plum** (Tyrian refers to the purple dye made in the city of Tyre by the ancient Greeks and Romans from gastropod molluscs). Lots of the new stamps were printed – 100,000 sheets of 240 stamps each. If only the Post Office had waited a few months; Edward died before the stamps were sent to the post offices around the country. The stamps were destroyed, all except one unperforated sheet which is held in the British Postal Museum and



Archive, and a small but unknown number that escaped.

At least 12 (and possibly a few more) unused copies exist, three of which are in the Royal collection, and naturally bring very high prices on the rare occasion they come up for auction. Convincing facsimiles are cheaply available on eBay (and at least one that claims to be the real thing!). One of the original examples was posted to the then Prince of Wales and received by him on 6 May 1910, the very day Edward VII died and he became King. Since the stamps were never available in post offices, did the stamp-collector King send it to himself?



Upcoming Exhibitions:

- 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

Another tiny stamp!

In the last Newsletter, I wrote about some stamps that were unusually small. In fact, I could have mentioned the whole set of Victorian stamps issued by Canada (1870 and later) that came to be known as the 'Small Queens'. They were just a smaller version of the first Dominion of Canada issue of 1867 and apparently this was just an economy measure because you could get many more stamps from a standard sized printing sheet.

However, Ed Burnard's display of Victorian stamps contained what might be the smallest stamp ever – the ½ penny of 1873 is a real midget.

