



## **VIEWS FROM NOBBY'S**

### **Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter**

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

Website : [www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au](http://www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au)

**February 2024 Newsletter 209** 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**

### **Auction!**

The next society auction will be held on Leap Day, Thursday 29 February, at the Pasterfield Centre. Viewing from 7pm and auction starts at 8pm. See Don C for details and lotting stickers. Setting up will start at 6:30. Visitors are welcome.

8 FEBRUARY Thurs – monthly meeting, displayer Tony Walker, *British Borneo 1939-47*

21 FEBRUARY Wed – social meeting, displayer Ron Davis, *A European Safari*

29 FEBRUARY Thurs – Auction 7pm at Pasterfield Centre

14 MARCH Thurs – monthly meeting, displayer John Moore, *Lord Howe Island postcards*

20 MARCH Wed – social meeting, displayer Paul Killen, *First Day Covers of Commonwealth Countries*

11 APRIL Thurs – monthly meeting, *members bring 6 pages of a topic starting with the letter F*  
This is an annual event/competition, with the winners being decided by the members.

17 APRIL Wed – social meeting, displayer Ross Zimmerman, *Birds in Japan*

9 MAY Thurs – monthly meeting, guest displayer

15 MAY Wed – social meeting, displayer Chris Ashhurst-Smith, *Medicine on Stamps*

13 JUNE Thurs – monthly meeting, selection of one frame exhibits

19 JUNE Wed – social meeting, displayer John Edwards, *Australian King George VI, a chronology*

11 JULY Thurs – monthly meeting, guest displayer

17 JULY Wed – social meeting, displayer Ed Burnard, *Two Australian States – Queensland and South Australia*

8 AUG Thurs – Annual General Meeting, Annual Competition and awards

21 AUG Wed – social meeting, displayer Chris Ashhurst-Smith, *Postmarks and Postal Dates Part 2*, and displayer Ron Davis, *Weird Things on Postcards*

In December we enjoyed our Christmas celebration at the Maitland Stamp Club. We had a good turnout of NPS members, and most brought six pages of something interesting to show around. This is a long-standing tradition and is always an enjoyable to catch up with our Maitland friends.

## PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Most of us no longer collect modern stamps. I wouldn't know the latest Australia Post releases. For many of us the postal history, or social history as seen through envelopes and postcards, is our collecting area of interest. Sharing that knowledge and interest at our meetings helps us learn about our topics and develop our collections. Collecting is about learning and growing your interests.

Currently the postal system locally is undergoing a change. Glendale and Elmore Vale Post Offices have closed, and the cost of a letter will soon be \$1.50. Large letters and parcels will rise in accordance, being set at double and triple the base rate. When was the last time you saw a letter with a current stamp on it?

Onto other issues....

The next society auction will be held on Leap Day, 29 February, viewing commences at 7pm, again at the Pasterfield Centre. See Don C for lotting stickers. Our auctions that were held at the end of each monthly meeting are on hold pending new material. Keep checking the website for updated information on thi.

Some new displays have been added to the website; check them out. I can add a display of yours, no names appear beside the display.

Thank you to the members who make this society so successful, with great member displays and friendly members, ensuring that our society continues to grow.

Greg Laidler, President

## SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS.

I have just heard that the base Australian Postage rate will increase from \$1.20 to \$1.50 per letter, however spare a thought to those in Denmark where their base letter rate is now 25Kr or a whopping \$5.52! I understand that our concessional rate of 60c will continue.

The new Philas website is up and running and is well worth a look - <https://philas.net.au>.

Philas now also has a Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/nswphilas>.

Most importantly there is our very own website [newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au](http://newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au). Thanks to Greg Laidler, it is always up to date with all the latest information including, when available, photos of lots for sale at our monthly meetings.

Philatelic regards, John Moore, Secretary

## Christmas Party Wed, Nov 29

The annual Christmas party was held at the Pasterfield centre, at lunchtime as it was last year. About 17 members attended and many brought items for show-and-tell, an interesting mixture of items as always.



### New Member

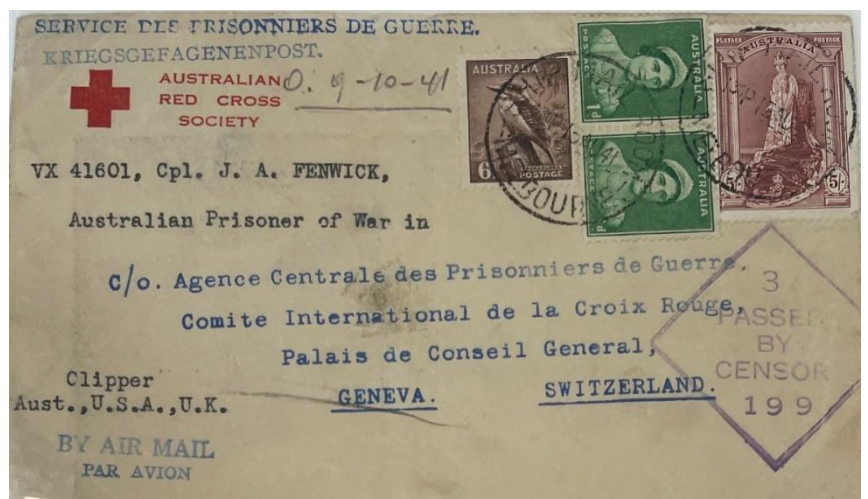
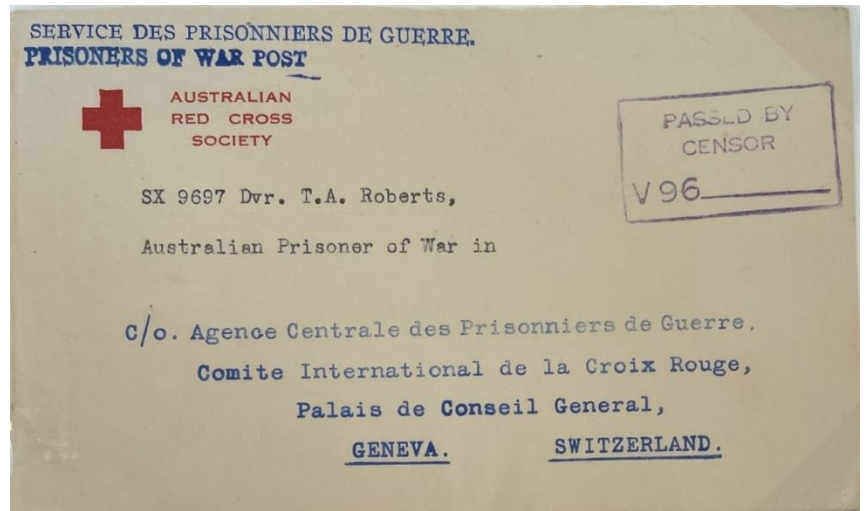
**Kevin Coburn** has recently joined the Society. Welcome aboard, Kevin; we hope you find the meetings enjoyable and engaging.

## AUSTRALIAN WW2 POW MAIL – Andrew Brockett Thurs, Nov 9

During WW2, many Australian armed forces personnel became Prisoners of War. Because Germany and Italy recognised the Geneva Conventions, POWs in those countries were allowed to communicate with their families, and thus mail to and from POWs exists, and it has become an interesting collecting theme. Our visitor, Andrew Brockett, was kind enough to show us part of his comprehensive collection – this display contained mail from Australia to POWs in Italy and Germany.

Because the International Red Cross was the driving force behind the establishment of the Geneva Conventions, it was responsible for distributing mail to the various prison camps. Mail for an Australian POW was collected by the Australian Red Cross (ARCS), which conveyed it to the International Red Cross in Switzerland, which was able to locate the correct prison camp in which the captive was held. This process was in place from early 1941 until late 1943. Sometimes, it took many months, and Andrew even had some covers that arrived after the prisoner had been repatriated.

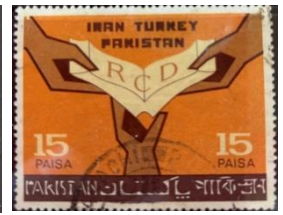
The earliest of his letters were dated 1941 and were sent to POWs in Italy who had been captured in the Libyan campaign. After Italy surrendered in 1943, most prisoners were moved to camps in Germany and after 1943, other methods were in place for delivering the mail. The envelopes had to be clearly marked as Red Cross, and he had one envelope that was rejected for inappropriate markings. The envelopes showed a large variety of postage, depending on what air mail route was needed to get it to Switzerland. Some of this mail went via Auckland, some via Manila as well as other routes. There were several different styles of ARCS envelopes, and all were censored as expected. Andrew's material was all in excellent condition and nicely presented. In addition, each letter was accompanied with information Andrew had found about the soldier. This was an interesting and informative display and we look forward to a future showing of his mail from the POW camps to Australia.





**PAKISTAN SINCE 1948– Tony Ayuz**  
**MT FUJI – Ross Zimmerman**  
**Wed, Nov 15**

Another double-barrelled program! Tony Ayuz showed his collection of used Pakistan dating from its creation in 1947 as a result of the partition of India. Tony's collection covered roughly the first 25 years of Pakistan's history. He described the period as one of great optimism as the new country established itself in the world. Pakistan's first stamp issue, overprinted India stamps, was soon replaced by stamps picturing public buildings and scenes of the countryside. One stamp I noticed honoured Muhammed Jinnah, regarded by many as the founder of Pakistan. Another interesting one celebrated the 1964 regional cooperation of Pakistan, Iran and Turkey, a group of non-Arab Muslim countries. Many of the stamp issues in this initial period celebrate the development of the new country's institutions and its participation in international institutions.



Ross Zimmerman showed us an interesting collection of Japanese stamps. About 20 sets of stamps have been issued over the years picturing Mount Fuji, and Ross has collected them all. Fuji is a beautifully cone-shaped volcano which last erupted in 1702; it is the tallest mountain in Japan at 3776 metres. It is sacred to Shinto believers and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The first stamps featuring Fuji were revenue stamps of 1875, and the first postage stamps were a definitive issue from 1922 to 1937. The first airmail stamps appeared in 1929 and showed a plane with Fuji in the background. A 1962 series depicted a variety of different views of the mountain. Collectors could be easily confused trying to read cancellations – the date was determined as the number of years since the beginning of the reign of the emperor. A very pretty display.



## THE HUNTER'S OWN POSTMASTER-GENERAL



Joseph Docker grew up in London and Kent. After a short stint as a surgeon on East India Company ships, he migrated to Australia at age 22 and acquired 10,000 acres of land on Sparkes Creek, about 20 km northwest of Scone in the Upper Hunter. He named the property *Thornthwaite* after the Docker home in England, and the property still exists today with that name.

Joseph soon became prominent in the region, first as a magistrate for Scone and then, in 1856, as a member of the Legislative Council, the upper house of the NSW parliament. He went on to serve two terms, 1866-68 and 1870-72, as Postmaster-General for New South Wales at an important time in the development of postal services in Australia. Newly in charge, Joseph brought the 600 post offices around the state under tighter control.

The frequency and reliability of mail from England was a sore point with all the Australian colonies. Docker was instrumental in negotiating a united colonial front which was able to exert pressure for a much-improved service from the shipping line P&O.

The telegraph system was rapidly expanding, and Joseph brought it under the control of the Postmaster-General. He then took control of the Government Savings Bank; his idea being to make its services available to ordinary citizens all over the state, through the post offices. Another innovation he introduced was the availability of money orders at the post offices, especially useful in small communities with no banking facilities.

Despite his very conservative background, Joseph Docker was involved in progressive activities which improved the welfare of the working classes. In addition to his postal achievements, he was responsible for negotiating the massive public education reforms of Henry Parkes through parliament. Talented at drawing and painting, he also was a pioneer in the development of photography, developing his own equipment and methods of developing film. He was one of the first to use stereo photography. Quite a remarkable man.

### Will we soon be knitting our own stamps?



Armenia has recently produced a postage stamp that is created by embroidery. The stamp is embroidered in a style that mimics a local type of carpet, with a fixed pattern. The design of the stamp incorporates a symbol of eternity at the center, surrounded by eight stylized dragons. The stamp is fully embroidered and has self-adhesive backing, with the fringes of the carpet doubling as stamp perforation. This is a great way of combining innovation and deep traditions—it is truly amazing.

It is not the first such stamp in the world. That honour goes to Switzerland, who issued a 5Fr embroidered stamp in 2000. In addition they issued minisheet consisting of a block-of-four with a fully embroidered decorative border. Who can predict the next innovation?!



### THE NSW DIADEM ISSUES – Warren Oliver

Thurs, Dec 14



In 1850, the colony of New South Wales issued its first postage stamps, the so-called 'Sydney Views' stamps which pictured Sydney harbour rather than Queen Victoria, a fact which annoyed British authorities. They were appeased by the new 1851 issue picturing the queen, although she was wearing a rather Caesarean laurel wreath. A much more appropriate design appeared in 1854 with the Queen wearing the diamond-encrusted state diadem. This series, all printed by the NSW Government Printing Office, became known as the 'Diadems' and lasted for 18 years. The varieties of colour, perforation, watermark and cancellation make this a fruitful collecting area. Warren has amassed a marvellous collection of Diadems, including many on cover.





Until 1860 the stamps were all printed imperforate. Warren showed us a great deal of colour variety for almost every issue, and one feature I found interesting was that some paper was watermarked with a numeral agreeing with the face value of the stamp. Included were proofs, such as the one shown here. Although many of the covers were domestic, Warren had a number of interstate and overseas examples as well. One I noticed went to UK via Alexandria (prior to the Suez Canal) and another went to UK via Victoria, thus needing Victorian stamps as well. Several domestic covers had additional postage added as a redirection fee. There were numerous other covers of special interest.

This was an outstanding collection. Thanks to Warren for showing it to us.

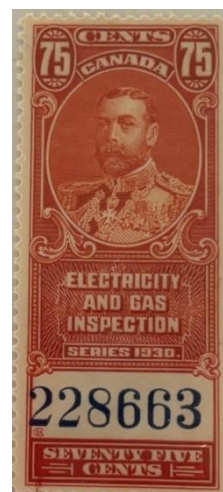


## SIX PAGES OF SOMETHING NEW

Thurs, Jan11

We have these meetings every year and I always look forward to them. Members bring all sorts of things to show, and we get to see material that would never appear in a larger display. This year's meeting was no disappointment, there were lots of interesting things to see. Here is a list of what was brought and you can see the amazing variety of philatelic interests our members have. Not all of these were new things, but no one cared! My apologies if I've missed anyone.

- Roger – Canada gas & electricity revenues
- Paul – Newcastle then and now postcards
- Greg – various interesting Newcastle covers
- Ron – Kiribati
- Don C. – German occupation of Poland stamps
- Jim – Halifax bicentennial stamp
- Don R. – McQuarie Island
- Ross – naturalist Maria Merian stamps
- Gordon – Chile airmails
- Russell – QEII 'In Memoriam' minisheets
- Geoff – changes
- George – USA space covers
- Tony – WW2 mail various countries
- John – Norfolk Island presentation cards



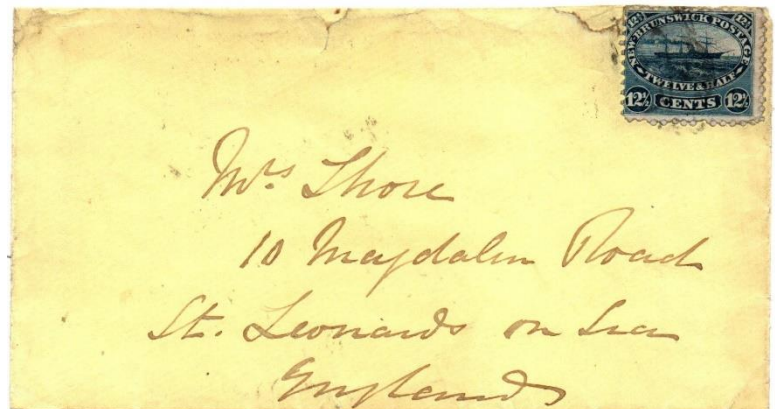
## AUSTRALIA'S POSTAL SERVICE IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

- 1901 All post and telegraph services brought under control of the federal Postmaster-General
- 1914 First airmail was carried between Sydney and Melbourne
- 1919 First overseas airmail was carried between Australia and England
- 1924 The last Cobb & Co road mail service
- 1925 Mechanised newspaper and packet machine installed in Brisbane
- 1930 Mechanical mail handling introduced at Sydney Mail Exchange – first in the world
- 1939 Number of postal articles handled topped 1 billion in one year
- 1959 Standard sized letters carried by air within Australia without airmail surcharge
- 1961 Number of postal articles handled topped 2 billion in one year
- 1962 First automatic postal station, installed in Melbourne
- 1965 Electronic mail handling using destination techniques, installed in Sydney
- 1967 Four-digit postcodes introduced
- 1969 Post-office-preferred envelope specifications introduced

(information from Australia Post)

### *Empire Classics*

New Brunswick (along with Nova Scotia) adopted decimal currency in 1860, following the lead of the colony of Canada (1859). All three colonies aligned the new currencies with the US dollar in order to facilitate trade and business. The first New Brunswick stamps issued for the new currency included these two pictorials. These were the first stamps in the world to picture something other than a person or an emblem. The 1¢ locomotive reflects the importance of the newly developing railway system to the colony, in particular for carrying mail. (Also, Postmaster-General Charles Connell was a director of the government-owned railway company.) Communication with the mother country was important and the rate for a basic letter to England was 12½¢. A stamp was required for this denomination and a picture of the transatlantic mail steamship *Washington* was chosen for the purpose.



### Upcoming Exhibitions:

- EFIRO 2024 Bucharest, Romania, 16–19 April 2024
- FIAP Exhibition 2024 JAKARTA, 3–7 July 2024
- PhilaKorea 2024, 15–19 August 2024
- Full National, Canberra, 12–15 September 2024
- National One-frame, Toowoomba, 11–13 October 2024
- AUCKLAND Stamp Show, 21–23 November 2024



## A Gem from Iceland

The year 2023 marked the 150th anniversary of the first stamp issued in Iceland. To celebrate the anniversary, the Icelandic postal service issued this beautiful souvenir sheet featuring four stamps, each depicting a part of the Icelandic natural feature

The Icelandic postal service ceased new stamp issues in 2020, so this is an extraordinary issue, and it is yet unknown whether there might be more celebratory issues in the future.



This souvenir sheet is visually stunning, consisting of four stamps. The stamp in the top left corner depicts a river flowing through wetlands, highlighting both the elegance and power of water; the top right corner shows the aurora borealis, also known as the northern lights,

The bottom left corner stamp depicts the crater and lava flow from one of the many volcanoes in Iceland and the final stamp at the bottom right corner depicts the Svinafellsjökull glacier, which is the largest ice cap in Europe. It is interesting that these images of nature could easily be mistaken for abstract art.

## EUROPA THRIVES

EUROPA stamps were first issued in 1956 by the six founding members of the *European Coal and Steel Community*, and three years later the *European Conference of Telecommunications and Postal Administrations*, also known as CEPT, was inaugurated, when 19 European countries decided to expand cooperation across Europe.

The cooperation swiftly grew to 26 members and the main purpose was to function as a union for the postal administrations and telecommunications companies, working to create standards across borders. In addition to this, CEPT also handled the issuance of the commonly themed EUROPA stamps from the first issue in 1956, up until 1992.

EUROPA stamps have become a popular area of collection, and the popularity continues to grow where postal services have created stamps which highlight the uniqueness of the individual countries. The EUROPA stamps show us both the things that unite participating countries, and the unique qualities inherent in a culturally diverse continent.

Since 1993, *PostEurop* has been in charge of the management of EUROPA stamps, and since then the organization has grown – this year there are 57 participating members issuing the commonly themed stamps.

