



VIEWS FROM NOBBY'S

Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

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

Website : www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au

May 2024 Newsletter 210 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

Advance Notice

At our November monthly meeting, we will be excited to host Mick Drury. He is an expert on Australian KGV and will show some of his outstanding collection of KGV postal stationery – one of the best collections ever formed. Thanks to our colleagues in the Maitland club for initiating this visit. Stay tuned.

- 9 MAY Thurs – monthly meeting, , displayer Greg Laidler, *thematic display of stamps featuring President Kennedy*
- 15 MAY Wed – social meeting, displayer Chris Ashhurst-Smith, *Medicine on Stamps*
- 13 JUNE Thurs – monthly meeting, selection of members' one frame exhibits
- 19 JUNE Wed – social meeting, displayer John Edwards, *Australian King George VI, a Chronology*
- 11 JULY Thurs – monthly meeting, displayer John Moore, the postal history of Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, up to 1936.
- 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*
- 18 SEPT Wed – social meeting, displayer Ken Connolly, *Switzerland*
- 16 OCT Wed – social meeting, displayer Don Catterall, *Postcards*
- 14 NOV Thurs – monthly meeting, displayer Mick Drury, *KGV Postal Stationery*
- 20 NOV Wed – displayer Warren Oliver, *Miscellaneous New South Wales*

Something New

Our June monthly meeting will feature something new. Members are invited to bring in a one-frame exhibit, that is, about 16 A4 pages, on any topic. This is not a competition, just a display. Newer members or those who have not done a display will be able to see the various ways others set out their collections.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

It is pleasing to report again that our society goes from strength to strength. Attendance at meetings and participation in society activities is as strong as ever.

Many thanks to Don Catterall who for many years has coordinated the evening auctions and the swap & sale nights. Recently these have become afternoon events, without suffering any loss of attendance. Don has decided that it is time for someone else. His commitment and dedication will be missed. On behalf of all members, thank you Don.

Thanks to Greg Korsmann for stepping up to take on the role of auction coordinator. Greg is a capable philatelist and organiser; we know that under his stewardship the auctions will continue to thrive. Greg will need a team around him, so if you are asked please accept the challenge.

Our secretary John Moore is currently in Bucharest, Romania with his display of *Zanzibar Airmails 1931-1966*. His participation in international exhibitions puts our society on the world stage. He was awarded a Vermeil, a great achievement.

We will be hosting a visit by Mick Drury in November. Invitations have been sent out to neighbouring clubs and societies. Even though it is a meeting day for us, we will suspend our meeting to give collectors more time with Mick and his display. The publicity flyer, and many other society events, are shown on our website.

Happy collecting,

Greg Laidler, President

SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS.

At the Pasterfield Centre, our meeting venue, we have moved from the carpeted meeting rooms to the main hall. This room lacks carpet, but it is more spacious, has less echo, better lighting and an adjacent kitchen. This has been a positive move.

Last month we held an informal competition for members displaying up to 6 pages on a topic beginning with the letter F. There were 21 entries, with equal placings being the norm. Congratulations to everyone who took part. The June monthly activity is a member display of one frame collections, just to see how other members set out their stamps, covers and write-up.

Remember to look at our website before meetings, as the 'Coming Events' and 'Auctions' will show you our calendar, our displayers and the monthly auction lots.

Philatelic regards, John Moore, Secretary

AUCTION RESULTS

Thurs, Feb 29

This was a very busy night with a good crowd and plenty of competitive bidding. The 21 vendors supplied 325 lots and of these 124 were sold at 38% disposal. Forty-one bidders were in attendance and sales totalled exactly \$1,400.

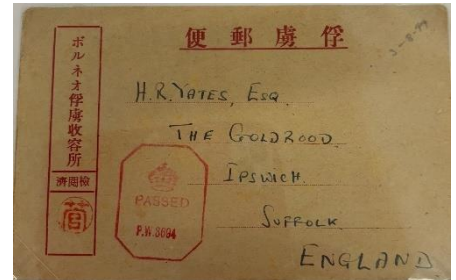
Top sales of the night were 2 large binders of Yugoslavian stamps which went for \$80 each. Next came 2 large packs of Hagner sheets which fetched \$65 and \$60. At \$40 came a large selection of Cigarette cards that attracted several bidders. Also bringing \$40 was an early Tasmanian Chalon. This was one of a number of such lovely items from the same vendor, all in fine condition and each bringing prices from \$15 to \$25. Colonials were popular with several other lots from another vendor fetching \$20 and \$15 each. Again at \$40 sold a brand new KGV Specialist Catalogue that had been donated to the Society. At \$30 was sold an album of early world stamps, obviously with some rich pickings! Many of the cheaper items attracted two or three or even more bidders.

It was a very nice night, and sincere thanks go to all who made it possible.

Don Catterall, Convenor.

BRITISH BORNEO 1939-47 – Tony Walker
Thurs, Feb 8

Before the outbreak of [World War II](#) in the Pacific, the island of [Borneo](#) was divided into five territories. Four of the territories were in the north and under British control – [Sarawak](#), [Brunei](#), [Labuan](#), and [British North Borneo](#). The display began with the beautiful 1939 pictorial series highlighting people and scenes of North Borneo. Tony had some covers that showed what circuitous routes mail to UK or US had to take to avoid Japanese occupied areas in the first years of the war. In 1941, Japan invaded, and many UK and Australian soldiers ended up in one of the four Prisoner-of-War camps, of which Sandakan is the best known. As well as some fieldpost mail, much of Tony's display consisted of mail to or from prisoners in these camps.



Outgoing mail from a POW camp generally had to be one of the regulation postcards, similar to the one shown here. Some of these were administered by the Red Cross. Tony had many examples of outgoing mail to UK, US, Australia and other countries. POWs were allowed to receive incoming mail, although it was often withheld as a punishment. Reading some of the letters brings home what a terrible time this was for both the men in prison and their families back home.

One of the highlights of the display was a makeshift stamp album that had belonged to a Japanese soldier. This must be extremely rare. One page is shown here. Tony is to be commended for a thoroughly researched and well-presented display.

EUROPEAN SAFARI – Ron Davis
Wed, Feb 21

We were treated to another of Ron's 'travelogue' displays – short visits to many countries. As he said, he 'collects the whole world'. This time we travelled Europe, seeing one or two pages from 28 different stamp-issuing places, ranging from the Faroe Islands in the north to Greece in the south. Ron explained that there were many more stamp-issuing entities that he could have included! Major countries like Spain, Germany and France were represented, but we also got to see stamps from Aland, Liechtenstein and Heligoland (an island in the North Sea ceded by UK to Germany in 1896).



The stamps he chose to show us were often unusual or especially significant. For example, as well as a nice set of the familiar German hyper-inflation overprints, he showed us a lovely page of less well-known overprints from Hungary. The UK was represented by a cover postmarked in Haroldswick, Shetlands, the most northerly post office in the country. A cover from Sweden was mailed from a post office on the Arctic Circle. A UK postcard showing the Trooping of the Colour was a stunning picture. There were pre-WWI stamps from Serbia and Croatia. Finally, the cover from Czechoslovakia was the first one Ron ever acquired – when he was 11 years old! As always, the display contained lots of maps, to help us with our geography education. Thank you, Ron.



LORD HOWE ISLAND POSTCARDS – John Moore

Thurs, Mar 14

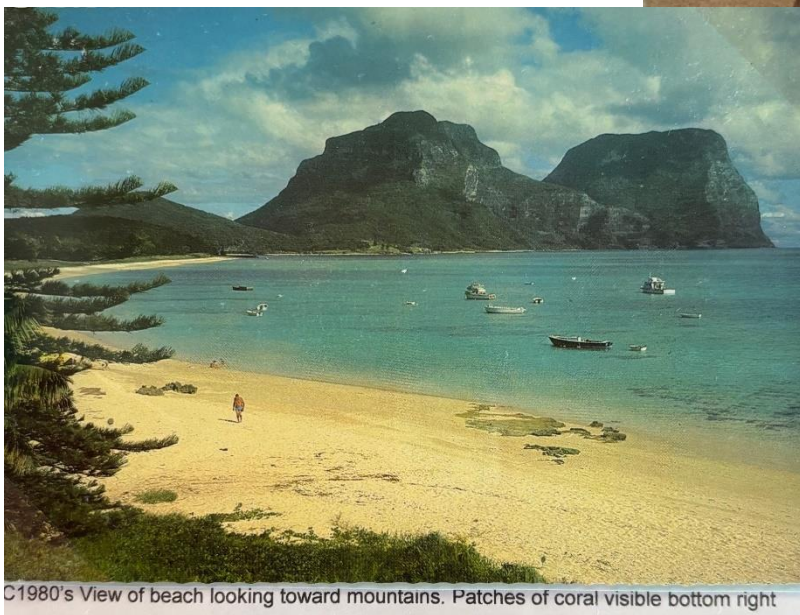
John Moore has given us a real treat. He has been collecting postcards from Lord Howe Island ever since he was young, when he received some from a family member there. Over the years he has acquired some real rarities, depicting early life there. In recent decades, the Island has become a popular tourist destination, and postcards are more plentiful, but in the early years (1930s and before) this was not the case, and such cards are very scarce. This might seem unusual, since postcards were so popular in many parts of the world in the 1910s and 1920s. Some of these early cards are from photographs taken by R. M. Seldon around 1905.

The display is to be the basis of an exhibit which will tell visitors what to expect as well as show them some of the history. It was arranged largely chronologically, to tell the story of the Island and the cards showed the magnificent scenery, including palm trees and the western sunset. They portrayed the historic houses on the Island, some typical family photos, guest houses for tourists, the steamers landing people and supplies and the



flying boats landing passengers. Naturally scenes of the sea were common; one good one was “A Good Catch”, a rarity from about 1916, shown here.

John’s long-term collecting effort has resulted in a very comprehensive description of life on the Island over the years. It’s informative and interesting, and whets your appetite for travel.



©1980's View of beach looking toward mountains. Patches of coral visible bottom right

Swap & Sale April 2024

Trialling a daytime event, results were not quite as we expected. Although very well supported by both committee and members, our regular visitors simply did not turn up even though contacts and publicity had indicated otherwise. A total of 27 attended, only 4 being non members, but everyone there had reason to enjoy the afternoon. 12 people took tables and most had quite some success. Lots of good philatelic fellowship ensued and by 3.30 pm we called it a day.

Don Catterall, Convenor.



Lee's Unusual Request

I have occasionally bought items from a business called LeeSales in Toronto, Canada. The business is run by Lee Mrkonjic. Lee occasionally sends newsletters around to LeeSales customers – they are usually businesslike with special offers and so on, but his latest contained an amusing story. Here is Lee's story in his own words (and with his permission):

I receive many calls each week from people looking to sell a stamp collection they inherited. They search online and my name and telephone number often come up. Most are sellers, but occasionally I hear from a buyer. This one call from a buyer was so unusual that I want to tell you about it.

I received a call from a woman who asked if I sell U.S. stamps.

"Yes, I do, what are you looking for?"

"I want to put them on an envelope."

"You want to mail some letters with U.S. postage, even though we're in Canada?", I asked.

"No, I want them for a movie prop."

Many U.S. movies and commercials are shot in the Greater Toronto Area which is not unusual, but this request certainly was. It was urgent as she needed the stamps within two hours. Now that I understood what she was after, I offered to provide a handful of U.S. stamps.

"How much do you want for them?" she said.

"How about \$25?" I replied.

"Okay, what's your address?"

After looking up my address on her phone she said "I'll have someone there in 15 minutes to pick them up". The person did arrive quickly which means they weren't filming very far from my home.

I ended up choosing some loose stamps depicting the U.S. flag, White House, and Statue of Liberty with a face value of no more than \$2.00. Knowing that movies have multi-million-dollar budgets, I could have asked for \$100 and she probably wouldn't have objected. No need to be greedy though, as \$25 was more than a fair price.

It was so weird, the phone call, choosing the stamps and waiting for the pickup all happened in less than 30 minutes.

I jokingly asked, "Will I be in the movie credits?"

FIRST QEII ISSUES FROM COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES – Paul Killen

Wed, Mar 20

What philatelists choose to collect is limited only by their imaginations. Paul has made a very interesting choice which he showed the 18 members present. He has been collecting the first definitive issues of Queen Elizabeth's reign from as many of the Commonwealth countries as he could. This has proven to be a real challenge – he calculated there were around 102 different stamp-issuing identities in the Commonwealth. He had 50 or more to show us, from Aden to Zanzibar.

The time Elizabeth's reign was beginning, in 1952, was one of massive change in the Commonwealth; many colonies were in the process of gaining their independence, and many names were changing. Some like Malaysia were formed as a union of several previously independent colonies. Many African colonies changed to different names. Leeward Islands issued stamps from 1890 to 1956, but its constituents, Antigua, Barbuda, Montserrat, St Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla and Virgin Islands, issued stamps at various times and in various combinations over the years.

As well as British Antarctic Territory and British Solomon Islands, we saw Gold Coast, Gibraltar and Gilbert & Ellice Islands and Bermuda, Barbados and Bahamas. Some places were new to me – for example Southern Cameroon UKTT (United Kingdom Trust Territory, a short-lived thing) and Tangier International Zone, which existed from 1952 to 1954.



Most of Paul's stamps were mint, and all were well presented along with helpful maps. There were many attractive stamps; the Queen Salote set from Tonga especially appealed to me. Thanks to Paul for a display that was interesting and a bit different.



SOMETHING STARTING WITH THE LETTER 'F'

Thurs, Apr 11

For my money, this is always one of the best meetings of the year. The variety of topics that members can dream up never ceases to amaze and amuse. This year was no different as the list below shows – we had everything from *Falconry* to *Fisher's Ghost*. As before, members voted for their favourites in three categories. Greg Korsman and Warren Oliver were clear winners in the *traditional philately* class, with outstanding displays. Ross Zimmerman was one vote ahead of Stella Rumsey in the *presentation and arrangement* class and both were well in front of the rest. In the *interesting theme and content* category, voting was spread over 13 different displays, with Ross and Pater Chalker just one vote ahead of four others. I think this last result illustrates the success of the competition – there were lots of interesting themes and unusual content.

- Greg Laidler – *First Day Cancels: Newcastle Post Office*
- Gordon Shearer – *Australia: Alternate way of Displaying*
- Don Rutherford – *Falkland Island Dependencies*
- Ron Davis – *Felines*
- Ron Davis – *Fauna in Europe*
- Carol Davis – *Folk Dancing Costumes*
- Don Catterall – *Famous People: Australia's 4th PM*
- Stella Rumsey – *The Forties*
- Greg Korsman – *First Flights Kingsford Smith*
- George Kuszelyk – *Poland Feldpost*
- George Kuszelyk – *Garden Flowers*
- Jeff Kaiser – *The Letter "F" Various*
- Jeff Kaiser – *Flags*
- Gordon Gibbons – *F is for Flight*
- Russell Goddard – *Australian Fashion Designers*
- Peter Chalker – *Flag Girls of all nations Cigarette Cards*
- Jim MacDougall – *The Founding of Halifax*
- George Chalmers – *Fisher's Ghost - Spirit of Campbelltown Pre-Stamp Covers*
- Paul Killen – *The Faroe Islands*
- Ross Zimmerman – *Falconry*
- Warren Oliver – *NSW Colonial Post Offices: "F"*



Sparkes Creek Cancel

In the last Issues of *Views from Nobby's*, I wrote a story about Postmaster-General Joseph Docker. Docker was the owner of the property called *Thornthwaite* in the Upper Hunter, located in the area called Sparkes Creek. Our member Paul Killen, who collects NSW cancellations, has since shown me a very clear *Sparkes Creek* cancel from his collection. The only thing not completely clear is the year, which appears to be 1915. This cancellation is quite uncommon because it was only used between September 1907 and February 1919. From 1879 to 1907 the name *Woodlands* was used, which is the name of a property not far from *Thornthwaite*. Thanks, Paul!



BIRDS OF JAPAN – Ross Zimmerman

Wed, Apr 17

Ross has given us a nice show by combining two of his hobbies – birdwatching and philately. A year ago, he was part of a Hunter Bird Observers Club delegation visiting two Port Stephens sister cities in Japan. The country is a birdwatcher’s paradise – there are more than 600 endemic species, some of which migrate to our part of Australia. In addition, many birds enjoy a revered status in Japanese culture, consequently there is a rich history of featuring birds on their postage stamps.



The first bird stamps appeared in 1875 and are hard to get. The one shown on the left is a forgery and these are common. Another early one was the green 1½ sen which shows a stylised bird and is part of a set celebrating Hirohito becoming Crown Prince in 1916. The red-crowned crane (on the red stamp) was revered by many and fabled to live 1,000 years. Just the opposite was the case, however, as it was hunted to near extinction. Numbers have been slowly recovering.



This was a very pleasing display to look at – page after page of beautiful mint stamps. I particularly liked the stamps featuring endangered species that were issued in the 1980s – six series in all. A 1990 series of water birds was beautiful. The endangered Fish Owl (shown



here) is the largest of all owl species. Even the extinct wood dove (left) warrants a stamp. In addition to photographic like portrayals, there were many artistic renderings, both visual and poetic.

Much detail was provided for each bird, and the layout and presentation were excellent.

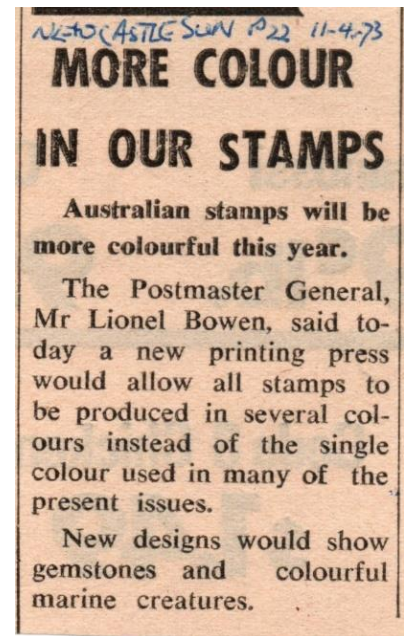
New Member

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

Upcoming Exhibitions:

- FIAP Exhibition 2024 JAKARTA, 3–7 July 2024
- Full National, Canberra, 12–15 September 2024
- National One-frame, Toowoomba, 11–13 October 2024
- FIAP Exhibition 2024 SHANGHAI, 29 Nov – 3 Dec
- Royalpex Exhibition, 2025 Palmerston North NZ, 7 – 9 Mar
- PhilaKorea 2025, date TBA

See the APF website <https://apf.org.au/philatelic-exhibition-timetable/> for further details.



Empire Classics

The *Cayman Islands* consists of three islands in the western Caribbean, about 180 Kms northwest of Jamaica. A British colony since 1670, the Islands were a protectorate of Jamaica until they became a Crown Colony in 1962. The first post office was opened in 1889 and Jamaican stamps were used for 12 years. The first Cayman Islands issue was a De la Rue Queen Victoria key type design that had been used in other colonies in the two values shown here and appeared on February 19, 1901. They went ahead using the stamps even though Victoria had died a month



before! It also appears that some stamps were sold even before the official release date.

These stamps were not in use for long, as within a year De la Rue simply replaced Victoria's head with that of the new King Edward in a stamp of almost identical design. These were issued in a set of five denominations.

The first issue is not hard to find, although it is not so common on cover.

Solar Eclipse!

On April 8, eastern Canada experienced a solar eclipse. The path where the eclipse was total passed across Mexico, USA and then the southern parts of Ontario and Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and finally Newfoundland. Canada Post got caught up in the excitement of the event and produced a stamp for the occasion. The clever design shows the path moving from left where it enters the country at Niagara Falls to the right where it passes into the Atlantic near Bonavista on the east coast of Newfoundland, with the picture being a collage of some of the landforms that are seen along the path.

