



Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

VIEWS FROM NOBBYS

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

Website : www.philas.org.au/newcastle

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WHAT'S ON IN YOUR SOCIETY

THE NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETS 7.30pm SECOND THURSDAY of EACH MONTH MAYFIELD EX-SERVICES CLUB, 2nd FLOOR MEETING ROOM, HANBURY STREET , MAYFIELD AND EACH THIRD WEDNESDAY AT 10.00 a.m. AT STUDIO 48, 48 MACKIE AVENUE, NEW LAMBTON EAST.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

DATES	DETAILS
Thurs 9 May 2013	Display by Greg Neumann "GERMAN FELDPOST"
Wed 15 May 2013	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Ron Davis – "IT'S A PECULIAR WORLD"
Sun 19 May 2013	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
<i>Thursday 23 May 2013</i>	STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)
Thurs 13 June 2013	Display by Paul Storm "ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS"
Sun. 16 June 2013	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
Wed. 19 June 2013	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Don Gatterall - "POSTCARDS"
<i>Thurs 20 June 2013</i>	SWAP & SALE NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)
Thurs 11 July 2013	Display by Norm Tyack "ABOVE, ON AND BELOW THE SEA"
Wed. 17 July 2013	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Paul Storm - "AUSTRALASIAN CINDERELLAS".
Sun 21 July 2013	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
Thurs. 8 Aug 2013	AGM, ANNUAL COMPETITION AND AWARDS NIGHT
Wed 18 Aug 2013	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
Wed 21 Aug 2013	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Don Rutherford– "SOUTH GEORGIA, etc.".
Thur 11 Sept 2013	LADIES NIGHT - Individual displays by four Ladies
Sun 15 Sept 2013	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
Wed 18 Sept 2013	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by George Kuszelyk– "POLAND".

THE SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS, MAY 2013

With this being the last Newsletter before the August Annual Competition, it is timely that members be reminded of the Competition and the rules regarding entry to the three classes :

NOVICE: A member who has not won any medals either in any exhibition or awards at the Societies Annual Competition. FIVE pages plus a title page. Entrants bring along their display on the night of the meeting, with those present voting along the lines of the April annual Popular Choice Competition.

INTERMEDIATE: Open to those members who have won a previous award at a Society competition level. TEN pages which includes a title page.

EXPERIENCED: Members who have achieved medals or awards at Regional, State or National Exhibitions. FIFTEEN or SIXTEEN pages which includes a title page. Both the Intermediate and Experienced levels are judged by three appointed judges with the entries to be in the hands of the judges approximately 2 weeks before the meeting.

Many of you would be aware that Philas publishes quarterly a publication, "PHILAS NEWS", which contains a wealth of information about the Stamp Clubs in N.S.W. and forthcoming philatelic events that may be of interest to us. Our Society receives a number of hard copies for distribution to our members; however you can now read this publication on line by going to www.philas.org.au and clicking on the appropriate link.

The Presidents Piece - REGARDING THE EXCHANGE BRANCH

When I first became associated with the society in the 1960's the Exchange Branch was flourishing with a considerable volume of sales. A large proportion of the society's members bought from and/or sold through the books. Forwarding books by registered post was relatively cheap, as was the cost of remitting payments. But we live in changing times. The operations of the Exchange Branch have been overtaken by changing technology, rising costs, and the changing expectations of members. Today we can, through the internet, buy and sell to dealers and collectors all over the world paying by credit cards at little cost and with relative safety. The whole deal can be completed, including delivery, in a matter of days. By comparison to sell through the exchange branch can take months to finalise, at the same time those members who could not pass exchange books on by hand find that the costs involved in forwarding the books have risen astronomically.

It was announced some months ago, both through our newsletter and at our normal meetings, that the Exchange Branch Convenor was retiring and that if a replacement was not found the exchange branch might have to be wound up. Only one person enquired about taking up the position, and he subsequently withdrew.

The committee agreed after considerable discussion that an orderly wind down of the Exchange Branch should take place, and its operations terminated subject to a vote by the members. This decision was not taken lightly or without due and proper consideration of its implications or the alternatives offered.

We recognise that there are members who actively supported the operation of the Exchange Branch, and we recognise that there are members who joined the Society because of its existence. We were however confronted with the realities of the situation. Not having a convenor was merely one aspect of this, the number of participants, both buying and selling, have declined dramatically; the value of sales has fallen to only tens of dollars per month. In short, when we look at the numbers, we do not see a viable operation. In attempting to avoid closure a number of options were considered but were found to be impracticable. These included affiliating with another society's exchange branch. This particular option was not practicable as it required the Society to appointment of a person to co-ordinate the distribution of, and be responsible for, the books sent to us and account for funds received - in other words an exchange branch convenor/supervisor! This also would create legal responsibilities for the Society, the convenor/supervisor personally, individual officers and committee members.

The end result is that with considerable regret that I submitted the following motion to our February meeting: "That the Exchange Branch of the Newcastle Philatelic Society be wound up".

This was carried with only one member dissenting.

We hope to finalise the affairs of the Exchange Branch and return unsold materials before the Annual General Meeting in August 2013.

It is unfortunate that we have to end something that formed such an important part of our society in past years, particularly given the hard work done by the various convenors over the years, particularly by the present convenor, Kevin Simkus, who has worked long and hard in his efforts to maintain and improve its operation.

We continue to have a strong and viable society. Our members are keen collectors and have a range of collections that are comparable both in scope and quality to any of the capital city clubs and I look forward to seeing more of them displayed at our meetings over the coming years.

- Gordon Gibbons, President -

 *** *One of our Society's members, ALBERT WYNTER, has been the Convenor of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club's Exchange Branch for 30 years. During that time, he has put through 250 circuit books (of 100-130 pages) and had \$280,000 in sales !*

** **Sharks** : More than half of the world's 350 species of sharks are found in Australian waters. They share with their relatives, rays (whose poisonous sting is usually fatal), an unusual quality; apart from the fear they inspire: they have cartilage instead of bones. Many sharks are harmless and have been killed without reason, but man-eating (carnivorous) sharks cruising in harbours or off beaches still inspire panic. Ironically, over the past 150 years only about 100 fatal attacks have occurred in Australia (about the same number as are killed in road accidents every month on Australian roads).

*** High heeled shoes were originally designed for male aristocrats.

NEW SOUTH WALES - PART 2

- the display by WARREN OLIVER, Thursday 14th February 2013

Warren started by saying that his "Part 2" display was based on the issues "after the Diadems", and included high value issues, stamps used on covers (some of which are quite rare), and a lot of different perforation, colour and watermark varieties, which indicated the many different printings of the series. It had only been displayed to our Newcastle Society and at the Toronto Stamp Club.

After we had stared open-mouthed at the display sheets full of rare and scarce issues from New South Wales, the vote of thanks summarised it all : "Such a collection needs study and patience over a long period of time".

Starting off with the 1862-85 Queen's Heads issues, we then saw the Pictorial Centenary of N.S.W. series first issued in 1888-89, which included the 4d. yellow-brown Captain Cook - the first N.S.W. stamp depicting someone other than Queen Victoria. Also breaking with tradition, the scarce twenty shillings (£1) issue, showing a portrait of a living person (Lord Carrington, the N.S.W. Governor in 1888) - possibly the first such stamp in the World! All these stamps showed the values in words, not figures - a feature not to change until the 1892-1910 issue. Then there were the very colourful hard-to-get "Consumptives Home" (tuberculosis) issues of 1897 - in multiples !! Most of us are proud of our just one or two specimens of these !

Some postmark collectors were green with envy.

If you weren't at that meeting, you really missed something !!



Cover from Balranald to Goulburn, November 1868

VALE WILLIAM (BILL) HORNADGE

FOUNDER OF SEVEN SEAS STAMPS, FORMER OWNER OF "STAMP NEWS", PATRON OF THE CINDERELLAS CLUB OF AUSTRALASIA, AND A LONG-TIME MEMBER OF THE NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Bill Hornadge, the longest-serving member of the Newcastle Philatelic Society, passed away on 21st March 2013 aged 94, in West Gosford. Bill spent his early years at Catherine Hill Bay, where his mother was the Postmistress, and his father was a printer. He and his classmates were introduced to collecting stamps by his primary school teacher. Later, in boarding school, he started a stamp approvals service, where his school principal said that he received more mail than the whole of the rest of the school ! Shortly after this, he started a small philatelic magazine, brought to a halt by the Second World War, and at the age of 20 joined the Newcastle Philatelic Society (which had started the year before he was born). A chequered career in various newspapers followed, including Editor of the "Dubbo Liberal". His stamp approvals service flourished, and he started the firm Seven Seas Stamps in Dubbo at No.1 Sterling Street, where he edited "Stamp News", eventually selling both to pursue a career in writing books, following his avid interest in Australian history. During the Ampol promotion in the 1960's, where motorists buying petrol were given packets of stamps, he had housewives around Dubbo employed assembling several million of the small packets while their kids were at school – probably the most successful stamp promotion ever! Bill led a very full life. We have lost a staunch philatelist !



Currency Lads and Lasses : It is said that the paymaster of the 73rd Regiment first described the Sydney-born children of the early colonists as 'Currency', for the local currency, a Spanish dollar with a hole in the middle, was far inferior to good old English 'Sterling'. The local lads adopted the insulting term with delight. The Currency Lass, the story of the wooing of a genteel 'native-born' lass, staged in 1844, was the first musical comedy produced in Australia, but the poorer among the currency lads sought wives from among the prisoners of the Parramatta women's prison, or 'Factory', prompting this famous ballad:

*The Currency Lads may fill their glasses,
And drink to the health of the Currency Lasses;
But the lass I adore, the lass for me,
Is a lass in the Female Factoree.*

-TRADITIONAL



MORE HARDLY-EVER-HEARD OF COUNTRIES

the display by **RON DAVIS**, Thursday 14th March 2013

Excitement!! As exciting as finding that long-looked-for scarce variety ! About 12 years ago, Ron displayed his Middle Eastern collection, and noted the islands of SOCOTRA at the southern entrance to the Red Sea, off the coast of Yemen - and thought that he MUST get some stamps from there sometime. Ever since, he has been looking for them, and wow! ... there they were! In an auction catalogue from New Zealand - THREE of them ! Apparently there aren't many collectors of Socotra out there, because he got them at the reserve price - three stamps of the Aden-Socotra Expedition of 1960, showing an Arab dhow.



It turns out that Socotra is regarded by biologists as "the Galapagos of the Middle East", and three British expeditions went there to study the flora and fauna, some of which occurs nowhere else in the world. Two of these expeditions didn't issue postage stamps, but the one in 1960 did. The islands were under British Protection from 1888, and became part of Yemen in 1967.

SOCOTRA was only one of the hardly-ever-heard-of countries which Ron included in his display. WADHWAN, one of the former Indian Feudal States, only ever issued ONE stamp (albeit with lots of varieties) in 1888. An island at the extreme southern tip of South America, TIERRA DEL FUEGO, was another country only issuing ONE stamp. It was issued in 1891 by entrepreneur Julius Popper to the gold miners in the area, and had the unusual denomination of "10 centigrams of gold dust", as there was no currency on the island. His private postal service carried letters and packets of gold dust to Punta Arenas, the nearest city on mainland Chile.



Inspired by Jim MacDougall's recent "Canadian Provinces" display to our Daytime Meeting, included were NOVA SCOTIA and PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND and NEW BRUNSWICK (the locomotive stamp of 1860, SG2, was the first pictorial stamp in the world!). Aldabra Island, in ZIL ELWAGNE SESEL (part of the Seychelles) raised some eyebrows, as did the sheet on KHOR FAKKAN, a tiny part of Sharjah and in what is now the United Arab Emirates. KOUANG TCHEOU-WAN is a port and district in southern China leased to France from 1898 to 1943, while KIAUTSCHOU (Tsingtau), also in southern China, was leased to Germany in 1898.



"Dead" African countries included INHAMBANE, QUELIMANE, RIO DE ORO, and the one and only issue of SENEGAMBIA AND NIGER.



During the Spanish Civil War in 1936-1939, MALLORCA (Majorca) and IBIZA, two of the Balearic Islands just south of Spain in the Mediterranean, were on opposite sides of the conflict - and they are only a few kilometres apart ! A watery "no-man's-land"! Several other Spanish provinces issued "local" overprinted stamps during this War.



Debrecen, Slovenia, La Agüera, Ghadames, Possession Island, Jason Islands, Galapagos Islands - so Ron's display went on - over 60 different obscure countries. Luckily, he had included small maps on most of the countries' pages in the display - we needed them !!



How do they get koalas to cross the road only at those yellow road signs?

If a tortoise doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?



POPULAR CHOICE COMPETITION, 11th APRIL 2013 SOMETHING PHILATELIC STARTING WITH THE LETTER "V"

There were 15 entries in this Competition - a very good number, for what had been expected to be a difficult "first letter". There was a great variety, and the standard was high there were 3 fourth places, 2 third places, 3 second places, but only one first place.

JOHN MOORE - "Venda" : Venda is one of the native Homelands in South Africa. John bought his stamps some years ago – showing Flowers, Birds, Frogs, Snakes and Fruit.



RON DAVIS - "Volcanoes" : Twelve "pretty" postcards of these colourful phenomena.

DON RUTHERFORD - "V for Value Altered" : Different stamps from different countries, mostly in Europe - various overprints which altered the value of the original stamps.

BERNARD DOHERTY - "Vichy France" : Senegal, in the period 1941 to 1944 – "they took the RF off the bottom of the French stamps and they became Vichy stamps. There are very few of them."



DON CATTERALL - "Victoria's Railway Parcel Stamps" : "The big challenge was that these Cinderella stamps were issued over a spread of 100 years – there are a heck of a lot of stamps – the other challenge being what to do with the mint-unhinged stamps, which are worth a lot more than the used ones – hence the use of stamp mounts."



GLADYS TYACK - "Various Pages from an Amateur Philatelist" : "None of my seven collections started with a "V", so I thought : Blow it, I'll put in one page of each of them – Seashells, Antelopes, Pheasants, Butterflies, Birds, and Pitcairn Island."

NORM TYACK - "Victory is achieving our objective through effort and circumstances" : "My display illustrates that if you keep trying, you can achieve a result – each of these people I've shown kept on trying, in Music, Medicine, Car Racing, etc."



RON DAVIS - "Views of Venice" : "Scenic postcards of a city which I have been to, and interestingly, noticed the bottoms of nearly all the buildings are rotting away. The entire city is sitting on timber posts, some of them 1000 years old – very unusual".

GORDON GIBBONS - "V for Valparaiso" : Valparaiso is the biggest post office in Chile – my display is a collection of postmarks from there covering 65 years

Equal THIRD place:

GREG LAIDLER - "V for Variety" : "The printers had a lot of trouble lining up all the plates of the 1974 \$2 Red Gums painting stamp, and matching the colours of the original paintings, with colour patches all over the place, and they printed out a huge number of varieties. It's a fascinating stamp to study".

ROGER EGGLETON - "Victorian Railways" : A great selection of 1930's and 1940's Parcel Post stamps, and different from Don Catterall's display of early 20th Century specimens.



Equal SECOND place:

CAROL DAVIS - "Vikings" : Carol is proud of her Swedish "Viking ancestors", and pointed out that books of modern times show Vikings with horns or wings attached to either side of their helmets. In fact, this is a myth. Viking helmets were neat and conical, moulded closely to the shape of the head and some warriors had nose and cheek guards as added protection. Carol's maternal grandmother came from Visby on the island of Gotland.

JIM MacDOUGALL - "Victorian Canada" : "Being Canadian, my collection is mainly of Canada and its Provinces, several of which issued their own stamps. On a visit to the city of Victoria on Vancouver Island, I've seen one of the original paintings of Queen Victoria which was used on the stamps, so I was able to enjoy the city, the painting AND the beautiful stamps."



RUSSELL GODDARD - "Victoria Cross Recipients" : "With Anzac Day not far away, I thought that Victoria Cross winners from New Zealand and Australia would be appropriate, and fit in well."

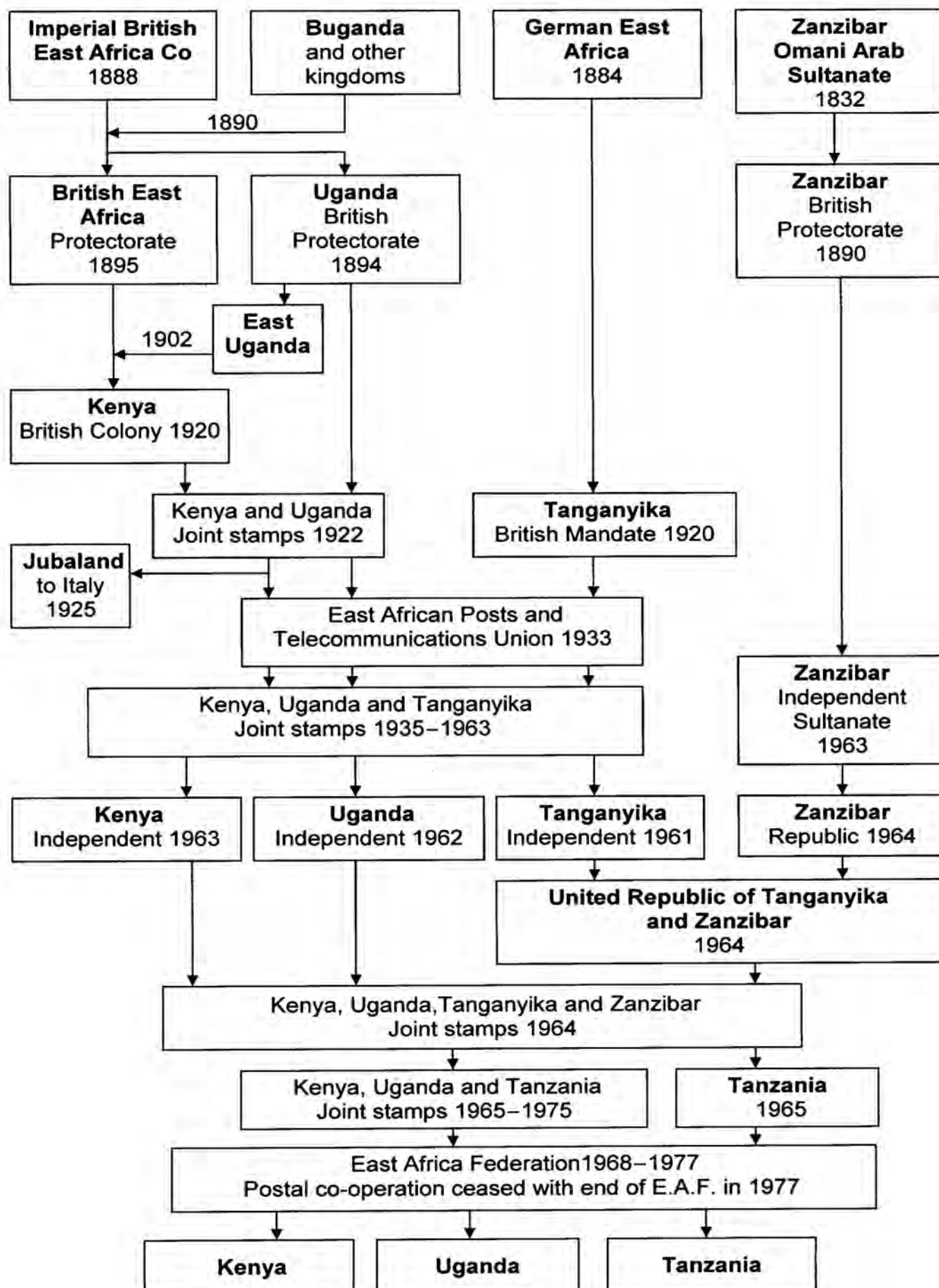
And FIRST PLACE was won by:

JOHN PUGSLEY - "Victoria - Stamps Depicting an Image of Queen Victoria" : "I like real stamps and real postal history, which seemed to die out after 1902. You just can't go past the beautiful Queen Victoria issues of stamps from around the world".



For those collectors of BRITISH COMMONWEALTH and "DEAD COUNTRIES", here is a time-chart of the Political History of Africa's Kenya-Uganda-Tanganyika-Zanzibar region, compiled by Howard Fisher :

KENYA, UGANDA & TANZANIA





THE NEWCASTLE DAYTIME MEETINGS,

**at Studio 48, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East,
at 10 a.m. on the THIRD Wednesday of each month (except
December).**



“PRE-PAID AND PRE-STAMPED ENVELOPES”

- the display by RUSSELL GODDARD, Wednesday 20th FEBRUARY 2013

Although Pre-paid envelopes and Registered Letter envelopes had been issued since 1913, with impressions of the King's or Queen's head (often embossed) in the top right-hand corner in red or green, Pre-Stamped Envelopes as we now know them started in September 1978, with the multicolour definitive Bird series. Commemorative pictorial P.S.E.s followed then every few weeks, with pictorial cachets on the left of the envelope. A second definitive series – Australian Animals – was issued in April 1980, followed by a “Flowers” series in September 1981. Eventually, overprints by charities swamped the market, turning people off. Often there were inappropriate overprints on the P.S.E.s – such as trains on the Bird envelopes. “The hobby has been ruined by non-philatelists”. Russell's display was illustrated by newspaper cuttings and other ephemera, causing him to say the it should really have been called “Scrapbooking with P.S.E.s” !

“THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA, PART 2” -

- the display by HOWARD FISHER, Wednesday 20th MARCH 2013

Howard's “History of Africa” display, “Part 2”, included stamps and covers from the various countries along the east coast and across central Africa to Nigeria (as distinct from the Part 1 display of Southern Africa). He punctuated the display with Time-Charts, showing where the various stamp issues fitted into the overall political history. The Time-Chart for Kenya-Uganda-Tanzania is shown on page 6 opposite. The collectors of “Dead Countries” – those countries no longer issuing postage stamps – had a “ball”, with these countries abounding in the display!



“CHRISTMAS ISLAND” –

the display by JOHN HILL, Wednesday 17th April 2013

Although William Dampier landed on Christmas Island in 1688 it was not until the end of the nineteenth century that a settlement was established to exploit the island's phosphate resources. In 1901 a branch of the Straits Settlements Post office was opened on Christmas Island under the responsibility of the District Officer. At first, Christmas Island was part of the Straits Settlements. Throughout this period sea transportation was the dominant mode. Since the European population remained small, fluctuating between 18 and 25 persons until World War II, mail from the early period remains very scarce.

In 1942 Christmas Island was occupied by Japanese forces, and during the occupation there was no post office on the island. After World War II, the Straits Settlements Colony was dissolved and control of Christmas Island was transferred to Singapore. When Singapore moved towards self-governing status, the British Government transferred Christmas Island to Australian control in 1958. The Australian administration introduced the first postage stamps for the island. Later, regular new issues made their appearance designed to appeal to the international philatelic market. However, in the 1990s with corporatisation, the Philatelic Bureau was closed and Christmas Island was restricted to one or two new stamp issues each year.

John's display illustrated the developments of the post in Christmas Island from the end of the nineteenth century to the present, and the role the post played in island life. The story was illustrated by historical documents, covers, postmarks, cachets, stamps, photographs and archival material. He pointed out the items which were of Special Social and Philatelic Significance in his extensive display : Original Straits Settlements government reports from 1897 & 1900; examples of all postmark types 1901-1942; a 1906 postmark on card; a 1937 airmail cover; a 1939 censored cover (one of two recorded examples from 1939); a 1945 surrender leaflet dropped to P.O.W.'s; a 1956 Royal Naval Weather Station cover (two of three known; examples of the three local booklet types 1995-6; and a 1990 Auckland World Stamp Exhibition imperforate miniature sheet (one of four known) !!



Up to 20 million tonnes of debris washed into the Pacific by the Japanese tsunami is now on a collision course with Hawaii and the US west coast - items as heavy as fridges, televisions and wrecked fishing boats are drifting across the ocean. *Nine MSN*

In Belgium : A new company trials parcel delivery service... to cars! A new Belgian company is trialling a service that delivers parcels directly to unattended cars. The service works by installing a unit near the driver's seat in the subscriber's car. The device then pings the car's GPS coordinates when it hasn't moved for 20 minutes and tracks this data. Cardrops - the company providing the service - then uses the data to create a heat map of the exact locations of the customer's car at specific times of the day so it can predict its likely location. When a parcel is ready for delivery, Cardrops sends its trusted delivery partner to the car's predicted position. Using the technology, the delivery partner unlocks the car's boot with a remote device to deliver the parcel, locks the car securely and the customer then receives an SMS notifying them of the delivery. Following the pilot, Cardrops plans to work with existing parcel carriers rather than providing a delivery service itself.

Post Journal, January-February 2013

AUCTION REPORT, 21 FEBRUARY 2013.

The promised dreadful weather held off and the turn-out was really good, although some must have been scared away as only 35 bidders took cards. They still managed to collect 163 lots between them, and that is quite a high percentage (almost 43%), from the 381 lots on offer. 19 vendors supplied these goodies, and total sales came to \$1,143.50 with quite a few respectable prices reached to boost that total

Most popular on the night were stock books of world material, these fetching \$50, \$26 and \$20 whilst several others all sold for around \$10 plus

A huge collection of world miniature sheets also went for \$50 to a happy buyer, whilst 2 other lots sold for \$24 each. These were a nice group of Victorian Revenues and a single postcard of a locomotive leaving Newcastle Station

This was a very busy night with so much interesting stuff on offer, and the workers got a well deserved round of applause at the end. Our thanks must also go to the vendors and buyers who made all this possible. See you at the May Auction!

Don Catterall, Auction Convenor.'

WORK-RELATED STRESS IN THE POSTAL SERVICE

An excerpt from *The Stamp of Australia* by Kelly Burke

By the mid-1840s, mail contractors were not only dealing with inhospitable terrain and stropky locals - the increasingly common sight of letters littering a track, a stranded cart and a trembling mailman bound with rope heralded the era of the bushranger. For two years, John Ross delivered the Portland to Melbourne mail before he decided to take a stand. In 1851 he had been held up along the 400 kilometre trail three times already, and the fourth turned out to be the last straw. At the sight of the bushranger, he decided to make a run for it, a decision that nearly cost him his life. Ross made it to Melbourne still clutching the mailbags, but a hole in his hat showed the bushranger's bullet had missed his skull by a couple of centimetres. His nerves were shot, and on medical advice, he made that fateful Portland-to-Melbourne dash the swan song of his career in mail delivery. Quite possibly this earned him the distinction of becoming the first victim of work-related stress within the Australian postal service.



** Polar bears and the Siberian Lion are the only animals to have hair on the soles of their feet.

** Atheism is a non-prophet organisation.



Pelicans can hold 11 kilograms of fish in their bills.