



Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

VIEWS FROM NOBBYS

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

Website : www.philas.org.au/newcastle

AUGUST, 2013 : Newsletter No. 166 : EDITOR: Ron Davis

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 8 Aug 2013	AGM, Annual Competition and Awards Night
Sun 18 Aug 2013	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
Wed 21 Aug 2013	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Paul Storm (Sydney) - "AUSTRALASIAN CINDERELLAS"
Thurs 11 Sept 2013	LADIES NIGHT - Individual displays by three 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"
<i>Thursday 19 Sept 2013</i>	STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (<i>details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639</i>)
Thurs 10 Oct 2013	Display by Dave Roberts "NEW ZEALAND REVENUES"
Wed. 16 Oct 2013	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Bernard Doherty - "MODERN AUSTRALIAN PARCEL POST"
Sun 20 Oct 2013	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
Thurs 14 Nov 2013	Display by Andrew Brockett (Sydney) "WWII AIR MAIL FROM MIDDLE EAST"
Sun 17 Nov 2013	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Wed. 20 Nov 2013	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Roger Eggleton - "MORE PARCEL POST, Part 2".
Mon 9 Dec	Visit to Maitland Stamp Club "Members take along 6 Display Pages"
Thur 12 Dec 2013	Display by David Collyer (Sydney) "WWII AIR MAIL TO AUSTRALIA"
Sun 15 Dec 2013	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
December 2013	No Daytime Meeting
Jan 9 Jan 2014	VISIT FROM MAITLAND STAMP CLUB
Wed 15 Jan 2014	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Stephen Morris- "MOTOR CYCLES".
Sun 19 Jan 2014	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Thur 13 Feb 2014	Display by John Pugsley "SELECTION OF ONE FRAMERS"
Sun 16 Feb 2014	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Wed 19 Feb 2014	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by John Hill- "COCOS ISLAND".
<i>Thursday 20 Feb 2014</i>	STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (<i>details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639</i>)

Your Secretary, John Moore, is gallivanting overseas at the moment in Wales after his European trip, so you all will have to wait until the November Newsletter to read his story, and to read "The Secretary's Annual Report for 2012-2013."

The Australian States : Did you realise that the stamps issued by the various Australian States, before federation (1901), were valid for postage in Australia up until 13th February 1966, when we went decimal.

The Presidents Piece – August 2013

As our Society's year comes to an end we can look back on a year filled with a variety of successful displays at both our night and daytime meetings, with something to suit all tastes. From a traditional Australian States to thematic collections to postal history, displayed by both members and visitors, show-casing the variety and quality of collections available to us.

The year also saw the demise of the long-established Exchange Branch. The importance of the exchange branch in past years cannot be under-estimated, however changing times saw it decline in importance, and with no one prepared to act as convenor, it was decided that the time had come to close it - a sad, if necessary, decision.

I retire as President at the August meeting and would like to thank the members of the Committee for their help & contribution to the running of the Society, both as individuals and collectively – without their efforts things simply would not happen.

There are two people to whom we all owe a vote of thanks for jobs well done:

- Our hard working Secretary, John Moore, without whose efforts the whole thing would grind to a halt, and,
- Kevin Simkus, our Exchange Branch Convenor, without whose hard work and dedication the continued operation of the Exchange Branch would not have been possible.

In conclusion, we have a Society which must rank amongst the best in the State for the enthusiasm of its members and the quality and diversity of their collections, something for us all to be proud of.

- Gordon Gibbons, President, 2011-2013 -

Publications Received by our Society

Newcastle Philatelic Society regularly receives a variety of philatelic publications. These are circulated among members by our Secretary, John Moore, who will add your name to the regular recipient list of any publication you would like to read.

I would like to recommend a seemingly modest monthly newsletter on our list of incoming publications, the *Armidale Circle Bulletin*. The quality of the printing, the colour illustrations, and above all the content, always varied, clear, and extremely well written, never fails to repay a careful reading. Albert Wynter is editor of the *Bulletin*. He has produced all but three of the 434 issues, an amazing record! (The three exceptions occurred while he was overseas in 1977.) Albert, now an octogenarian, tells me that in spite of the time and effort needed to prepare the *Bulletin*, he enjoys the work and feels it helps to keep his "little grey cells" active. He says: *"I have always adopted the policy of trying to introduce our local members to aspects of philately that extend beyond Australia and its Territories. Also, I have not used space to provide summaries or reviews of displays... [which are] very adequately included in the meeting minutes"*.

Why not ask Secretary John to add your name to the *Bulletin* circulation list? I predict that you will be delighted.

- Roger Eggleton [1 Aug. 2013

AUCTION REPORT May 2013. A Record Night

Once again a Wet and Stormy Night - just like last year. Perhaps we should find a better date, however that didn't stop more than a few and a good crowd of 36 eager buyers came along to seek their goodies.

Bidding became quite frenzied on a few items but mainly the auction proceeded steadily and the lots just kept on coming and coming. This auction surpassed all previous events by far with a record 220 lots sold, representing a 61% sales rate from the 361 lots on offer and ensuring a most successful night for everyone.

Total sales came to \$1,353, a very satisfactory sum but not near our previous highest mainly due to a lack of high value sales. The highest being \$32 for an Australia Post Year Book whilst another sold for \$28. That same sum was paid for a huge box of mixed covers from the John Fordham estate. \$26 was paid for a cased album full of hanger sheets - great value for money, and also \$26 for a choice Victorian revenue stamp. As usual there was a great variety on offer, this being one of the appeals of our auctions and thus far too many categories to mention but British Commonwealth probably remained the most popular. Late Sales again provided a busy end for my night. Thanks go to the 23 vendors who continue to supply the material, to the buyers who make the night worthwhile and to the auctioneer and the working team who make it happen smoothly. Don't forget our Swap and Sale Night in June and our next Auction on 19th September. Philately is alive and well in Newcastle !

Don Catterall. Auction Convenor.

*** When money talks, it always says goodbye.

NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY - TREASURER'S REPORT**ACCOUNTS FOR 2012 – 2013**CHEQUE ACCOUNT

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Subscriptions and New members	\$ 1335 – 00	Room Hire	\$ 800 – 00
Interest	\$ 1844 – 35	Reimbursements	\$ 24 – 80
Commission and Sales	\$ 679 – 22	Australian Tax Office	\$ 639 – 60
Sundries (including transfer of members' funds)	\$ 5611 – 66	Affiliations, Journals, etc.	\$ 225 – 50
	<u>\$ 9470 – 23</u>	Bank Fees	\$ 12 – 00
		Expenses (Printing, Postage)	\$ 620 – 67
Opening Balance at 6-7-2012	\$ 3575 – 29	Insurance	\$ 212 – 00
Add Deposits	<u>\$ 9470 – 23</u>	Transfer to Insurance Fund	\$1000 – 00
	\$ 13,050 – 52	Donations	\$ 700 – 00
Less Withdrawals	<u>\$ 4,234 – 57</u>		<u>\$ 4234 – 57</u>
Balance at 30-6-2013	<u>\$ 8,810 – 95</u>		

INSURANCE FUND : Transfer from Cheque Account 10-11-12 : \$ 1000 – 00

Balance at 10-11-2012 : \$ 21,000 – 00 (interest paid into Cheque Account)

EXHIBITION FUND : Balance at 22-11-2012 : \$18,082 – 25

Annual Interest \$ 960 – 84 (paid into Cheque Account).

– Don Rutherford, Treasurer –

German Feldpost – mail of the Axis Forces between 1939 and 1945 - a display by Greg Neumann, Thursday 9th May 2013

It is historically known that there were approximately 37 billion Feldpost items posted during the war. The object of the Feldpost was to convey military official and private mail to and from members of the German Armed Forces and the Homeland. The associated military tasks included examination in censorship and analyzing the mood of the sender to alleviate discord of the recipient. The Feldpost had no military tactical Task.

As a security measure during WW2, the German armed forces employed a numbering system wherein all field units (excluding reserve, training and administrative units) were assigned a five digit "Feldpost" number which, for mailing purposes in particular, became the unit's full address. This was used on both incoming and outgoing mail to preclude mention of the unit's tactical identity and thus a typical letter from home would be addressed merely:

Feldpost
Private Gunther Schmidt
Fp. No.12345

To the collector of military mail, this numbering system presents an obstacle which must be overcome, since a cover to or from the security type address above would be often meaningless without knowledge of the unit's identity or location.

Since these Feldpost numbers were assigned to units down to Battalion level (and sometimes down to Company or Platoon level), there are necessarily several thousand numbers involved and the corresponding identities even more numerous, since numbers were occasionally changed and reassigned. Starting at 00001, these numbers run up through the 89,000 series, with the only "block" of unused numbers being those between 68,100 and 80,000. Thus, in very round numbers, we are contending with some 77.000 numbers, many of which were assigned to more than one unit (at different times).

The sheer quantity of numbers/identifications certainly presented problems to the German Feldpost service itself, and documentation was required which took the form of a very extensive directory (Feldpost Uebersicht) which had to be constantly updated and reprinted - remember there were no computers in those days. A number of these directory issues (but by no means all) survived the war and are found on microfilm in the U.S. National Archives.

Several books have been written on Feldpost and Feldpost Numbers. However, most of these are written in German which requires extensive translation. There are very few books on the subject written in English, and those that do exist do not match the English to German translation !

– Greg Neumann –

** China's insatiable demand for commodities has prompted a massive rise in the price of mining truck tyres, with some reaching \$100,000 each. Australian Financial Review.

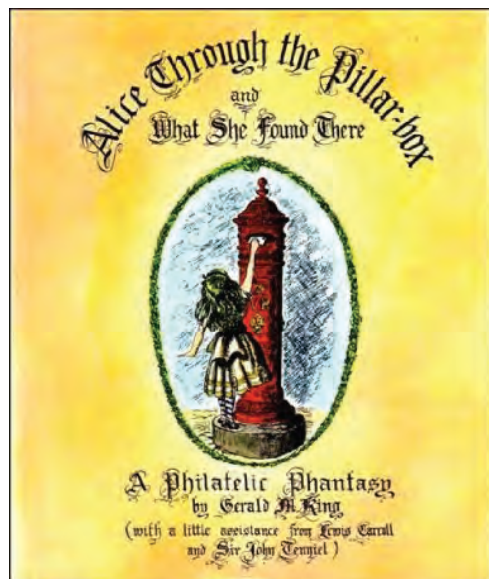


ALICE THROUGH THE PILLAR BOX

- display by Paul Storm (Sydney), Thursday 13th June 2013

The stamp sheets in this display belong to the Cinderellas Stamp Club of Australasia (of which Paul is the long-time Secretary) and were prepared for the 1982 Anniversary. Originally, England's GERALD KING made the stamps for himself, but eventually turned it into a commercial venture. He took the designs of classic British stamps – Penny Blacks, bisects, etc. – and changed the currency from Sterling pence and pounds : 40 Winks = one Golden Slumber. Then he went

through Stanley Gibbons “Philatelic Terms Illustrated”, and produced relevant philatelic covers and stamps, such as the “Cracked Plate” (a dinner plate), a “Crash Cover” (rescued from the cucumber frame), and “Missing Colours” (the Cheshire Cat disappears).



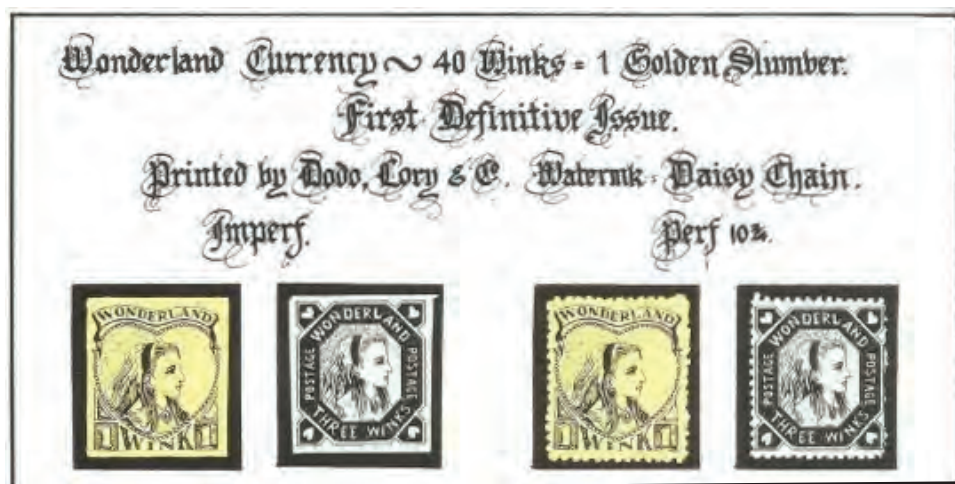
The stamp pages were written up in a very ornated script, an example of which is at the bottom of this article.

You had to read the addresses and note the stamps and the cachets, postmarks and markings on the Postal History items. For instance, for the anniversary of Al Capone's Valentine's Day Massacre in Chicago, there were six envelopes, all addressed to one of the 6 people shot in the massacre – from “the Dead Letter Office”. And one of the addresses which amused me : “To the Tweedles – Dum and Dee”.

Paul pointed out that there is a similar set of Cinderella stamps, “The Hunting of the Snark”, all about an island in the East Indies. Another well-known member of the Cinderellas Club, WILSON ILBERY, has produced a couple of books along similar lines, one of these being “The Unissued Stamps of King George VI” – for instance, for the Fijian KGVI issues : missing dateline, blue sugar cane, canoe unmanned, Die 3 – two men in canoe; Die 4 - three men in the canoe; Die 5 – four men in the canoe; Die 6 – man overboard; Die 7 – missing canoe ...

Very interesting !

- RJD -





OVER, ON, AND UNDER THE SEA

- a display by Norman Tyack, Thursday 11th July 2013

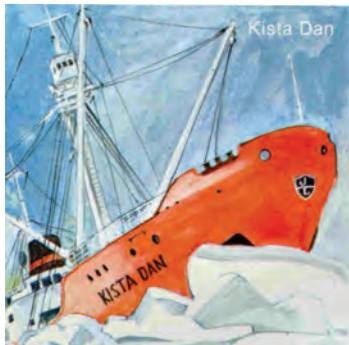
Norm Tyack admitted that his main hobby interests were Stamps, History, Nature, and Models of ships and aircraft.



Norm is well-known as a “ships” collector, so, with a title like this, we sort-of expected to see seaplanes and floatplanes, ships and submarines. Yes, we had these, but we also were treated to a wide variety of explorers, navigators and aviators, historical battles, whales, shells, fish, dolphins, seals, sharks and rays. And penguins, albatrosses, squid, seadragons, cod, trevally and tuna. And with a bit of Scrimshaw art and the Twelve Apostles in Victoria also thrown in !

The Australian Navigators postcards and maximum cards featured prominently – Abel Tasman, van Diemen, Cook, Captain Nicolas Baudin, George Bass (1771-1803), Matthew Flinders (1774-1814), Philip Parker King (who charted the coast previously unexplored by Matthew Flinders), and Charles Darwin (1809-1882), Sir Francis Drake, and Christopher Columbus (1451-1506).

Some of the lesser-known ships featured were the *Lady Nelson*, the first ship to sail to the west through Bass Strait, the *Alma Doepel*, a three-masted topsail schooner, which crossed Bass Strait 578 times, and the *Chusan*, the first steamer to carry mail and passengers to Australia in 1852. Then there were, for example (amongst many others) :



Kista Dan : Together with her “sister” ice-breaker ships, Thala Dan, Nella Dan, and Magga Dan, the 1,200 tonnes *Kista Dan*, was chartered by the Australian Government from J. Lauritzen of Copenhagen, Denmark, to take men and supplies to Australia’s bases in Antarctica. She was built in 1952 at Aalborg, Denmark, is 65 metres long and has a beam of 11 metres; she draws 4.8 metres of water and is powered by 1,125-kilowatt diesel engines which give her a speed of 12 knots in the open sea. *Kista Dan* is a mixed passenger and cargo ship, with accommodation for 24 passengers. The vessel was designed for sailing through ice, and has several special features. The hull is strengthened and rounded, and her bow is raised slightly above water level so that it slides up over the ice and smashes it under the ship’s weight. There are metal fins underwater to protect the propellor and rudder, and in bad weather the ship can be steered from the crow’s nest on top of the main mast.



HMAS Sydney : The Light Cruiser **HMAS Sydney** (1913-1929), 5400 tonnes, was one of the most famous ships of the Australian Navy, arriving in Australia as part of the Australian Fleet in October 1913. She and her sister ship, **HMAS Melbourne**, were cruisers, of the Town class, and carried an armament of eight six-inch (15-centimetre) guns. In November 1914 the *Sydney* and *Melbourne* were part of an escort taking 38 transports to England. The transports carried the combined Australian and New Zealand troop contingents. Nine days after leaving Albany, Western Australia, a radio station at Cocos Island reported the station was being attacked by the German cruiser *Emden*. **HMAS Sydney** left the convoy and engaged the enemy in a classic running battle during which the *Emden* was disabled and run aground.



HMAS Oxley : Submarines became powerful naval weapons during the First World War. Ever since then, submarine crews have lived and worked in cramped and often uncomfortable conditions. Australia’s navy has six submarines belonging to the Oberon class. The first of the Oberon class submarines to join the navy was **HMAS Oxley**, which arrived in Australia in 1967. She was built at Greenock, Scotland, has a displacement of 1,610 tonnes, and is 90 metres long. Her



armament is eight torpedo tubes and she carries 68 officers and sailors.

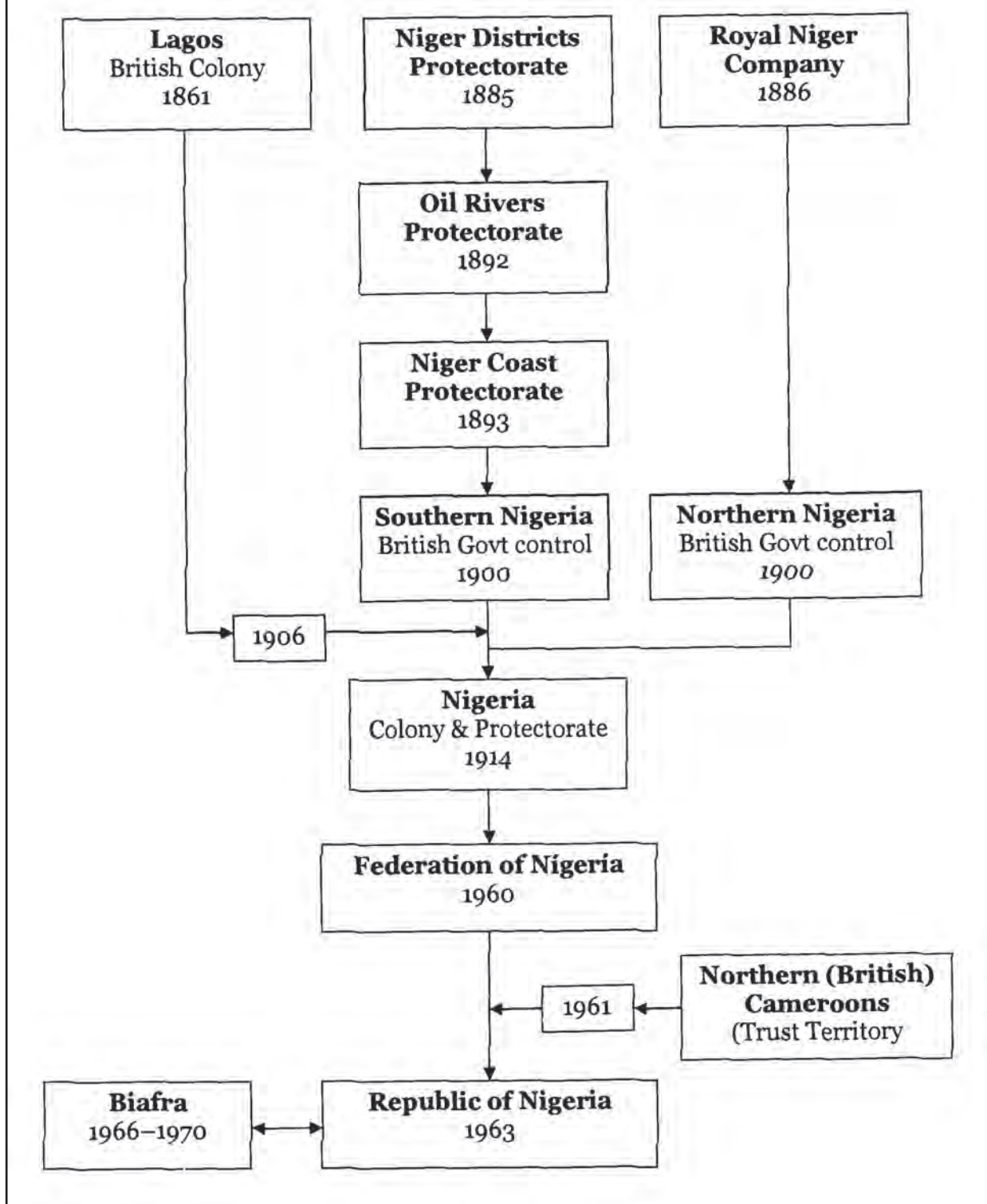
H.M. Bark Endeavour at anchor, about 1769 – the ship used by Lieutenant (later Captain) James Cook when he discovered the east coast of Australia.

World War II’s Coral Sea Battle, and Davo Island and the Second Battle of the Coral Sea (August 1942) were well written up. These battles were unusual in that the naval forces never caught sight of one another – both battles were fought entirely by aircraft. The Japanese Admiral became so desperate that he sent his main aircraft carrier into battle with insufficient fuel to return to its home port. Norm had a very detailed model of this aircraft carrier and several other ships to show us at the end of his display – “after-dinner mints” he called his models.

*** Scientists have discovered that plastic from the enormous Pacific Ocean “garbage patch” is finding its way into almost 1 in 10 fish – they estimate that fish are ingesting as much as 24,000 tonnes of plastic each year. ABC.

For collectors of BRITISH COMMONWEALTH and "DEAD COUNTRIES", here is a TIME-CHART of the Political History of the African region of NIGERIA, from 1861, compiled by Howard Fisher :

NIGERIA



SWAP AND SALE NIGHT. 20th June 2013.

This event was well attended by our members with 32 in all joining the hunt. There were 6 tables to visit and most people went away with something new to put in their collections whilst the dealers, as always, managed to get rid of some excess stock. A couple of new faces proved the value of our advertising and perhaps an addition to our membership down the track.

N.B. Next Year : the Swap and Sale Night will be moved to July to fit more evenly into the gap between our May and September auctions.

Hope to see you there.

Don Catterall, Activities Convenor.

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).

“WEIRD PLACES AROUND THE WORLD” -

- the display by **RON DAVIS**, Wednesday 15th MAY 2013

A lot of the regular attendees were at the Ausipex Exhibition in Melbourne, so only a small group viewed Ron's display, which covered some very unusual places. One of these was REDONDA, a desert island in the Caribbean Sea belonging to Antigua. It is uninhabited, but has had its own postage stamps since 1979. The stamps were issued in anticipation of tourist and commercial development – which has not so far materialised! Another similar stamp-issuing “country” is rocky CARN IAR, in the Inner Hebrides, which is populated only by seabirds. NICARAGUA issued a stamp showing Mount Mombotombo erupting – right beside a proposed route for a shipping canal across the Isthmus of Panama. A young engineer with vested interests used copies of this stamp to convince the U.S.A. Congress to move the location to the non-volcanic Panama!



! Closer to home, Western Australia's village of Cocklebiddy has an interesting sign out the front of their service station. And so on and so on

**“POSTCARDS” – the display by DON CATTERALL,**

Wednesday 19th JUNE 2013



Don showed us quite a “mixed bag” – concentrating on “DISASTERS”. Rather than waiting 8 years for “D” to come up for the April Competition, he thought NOW was the time! Earthquakes, fires, floods, shipping disasters (including the *Titanic*), President Kennedy's assassination, bushfires and tsunamis. Then there were BRITISH OCEAN LINERS, and a small section on FAMOUS PEOPLE. William Wordsworth – “he wrote for 50 years, but can anyone name a poem that he wrote other than “Daffodils”?” Don's Earliest Picture Postcard, dated 1898, turned up in 1904. IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES showed some fascinating stuff, and he had (by request) also brought along some SAUCY politically-incorrect CARDS, too.

“6 PAGES FROM EACH MEMBER” - the displays on Wednesday 17th JULY 2013

Seven members had brought along a wide variety of displays :

DON CATTERALL : *Postcards of Trams*, in Australia and in Europe – France, Ireland, Germany, Great Britain, and in the USA;

DON RUTHERFORD : *U.S.A. Postage Rates* - on a series of covers;

ROGER EGGLETON : *Hungary “Esperanto” postcards* (issued 1930, showing very colourful and detailed murals); AND *British Parcel Post on Ogden's Cigarette Cards*;

JIM MACDOUGALL : *Canada's Early History* – early explorations, and two provinces joining Canada (e.g. Newfoundland), AND *Canada's 1949 Commemoratives* – 200 Year Anniversary of the city of Halifax;

SANDRA BAKER : *Jerusalem* – UNESCO World Heritage Sites – the Old City and the famous walls of Jerusalem;

RON DAVIS : *The Western Islands of Scotland* – stamps from tiny islands in the Inner and Outer Hebrides;

CAROL DAVIS : *Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo* – with controversial artwork and stamps of various animals..



** Australia's drinking water is clean, safe and virtually free – yet Australians spend millions every year on bottled water. The cash-strapped NSW Department of Health spends about \$1-million annually to bring bottled water to hospital bedsides. Its Minister has asked District Health Services to investigate why some pay for expensive bottled water, yet others provide patients with jugs of tap water. *Daily Soils Digest*.

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

1913 - Canberra or Symbelperadbrisho?

There were hundreds of suggested names for Australia's new capital city, ranging from a combination of the State capitals' names to a marriage of primary industries – "Wheatwoolgold". There was Federalia, Union City, Waratah and Wattleton. Four to five thousand people gathered on 12 March 1913 for the ceremony to mark the commencement of the national capital. Lady Denman, wife of the Governor-General, read out the capital's name - CANBERRA, a version of the name given to the area by its indigenous population. Was there, perhaps, a sigh of relief?



Interestingly, not long after Federation, a group of politicians and other important people met at DALGETY in southern N.S.W., located exactly halfway between Melbourne and Sydney, with a view of siting the nation's capital there. It was the middle of winter, a freezing gale was blowing up from the Antarctic, and the temperature was well below zero. They quickly decided that there wasn't the place that they wanted to set up their parliament. (Mind you, Canberra's climate is only marginally better.)

1917 - East meets West :

The Trans-Australian Railway was opened between Kalgoorlie W.A. and Port Augusta S.A. in 1917, thus linking Perth with the other mainland State capitals. The promise of a rail link across the continent had been one of the reasons that persuaded Western Australia to join the Federation in 1901.

1918 - After the battle in Europe, Australia now battles disease :

Spanish influenza was brought to Australia by returning soldiers at the end of 1918. More than 11,500 Australians died of the disease, many more became seriously ill. Schools, theatres, churches and hotels were closed, and public meetings were only permitted outdoors.

FOR SALE : Australian Stamps 1959-1992.

Mounted on 160 Seven Seas Simplified stamp-pages and housed in four display books. Collection is practically complete (about 14 missing) and includes minisheets and over \$38.00 of mint stamps.

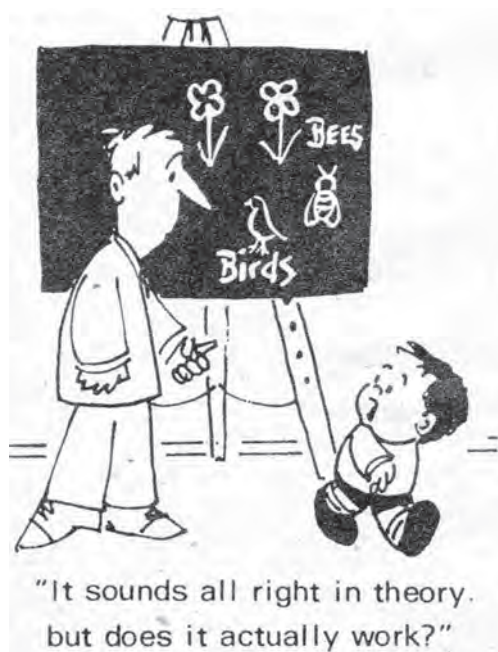
Gift price : \$80.00 the lot.

Contact Gladys on (02)4987 5996.

Disappearing phosphors : It has been noticed that the plastic strips in some stock books absorb the phosphor from stamps. This occurs after the stamps have been left in the stock book for several years. Apparently there are two types of PVC plastic used to make these strips. It is the soft type that adversely affects the stamps. The two types can be distinguished by bending the plastic over double. The hard PVC will leave a white line where it was bent, but the soft PVC won't. So now you not only have to look out for rust forming on your stamps, but also that the phosphor does not disappear ! So watch those Great Britain side-bands !

*** The melody of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" was composed by Mozart in the late 1700's !

** CANADA has more lakes than the rest of the world put together !



Air crash facts :

- Forty per cent of people are anxious about flying.
- Statistically, you'd need to fly every day for 19,000 years to be involved in a fatal crash.
- Every year 2.5 billion people take to the air and that figure is likely to rise to 3.3 billion by 2014.
- About half of all accidents occur when the aircraft comes in to land.
- The world's deadliest plane crash actually happened on the ground. In 1977, two Boeing 747 passenger aircraft collided on the runway at Los Rodeos Airport in Tenerife, killing 583 people.



Elephants use their ears as cooling fans.