



Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter VIEWS FROM NOBBYS

Newcastle Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 34, JESMOND NSW 2299
Website : www.philas.org.au/newcastle

MAY, 2014 : Newsletter No. 169 : 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 May 2014	Display by Warren Oliver "NSW Part III"
Sun. 18 May 2014	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Wed. 21 May 2014	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Dave Roberts- "TROOPER BROWN, TASMANIAN POLICE & OTHER O.S. CORRESPONDENCE"
<i>Thursday 22 May 2014</i>	STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)
Thurs 12 June 2014	Display by Wilson Ilbery "NSW RAILWAY PARCEL STAMPS"
Sun. 15 June 2014	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Wed. 18 June 2014	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Don Rutherford- "SOUTH GEORGIA, etc"
Thur 10 July 2014	Display by Howard Fisher "POLAND"
Wed 16 July 2014	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by "MEMBERS TO BRING 6 SHEETS FROM THEIR COLLECTIONS"
Sun 20 July 2014	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Thur 24 July 2014	SWAP AND SALE NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)
Thurs 14 Aug 2014	A.G.M., ANNUAL COMPETITION and AWARDS NIGHT
Sun 17 Aug 2014	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Wed 20 Aug 2014	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Howard Fisher- "THE SCRAMBLE for AFRICA, Part 3"
Thur 11 Sept 2014	PowerPoint Presentation by Bernard Doherty "NEWCASTLE POST OFFICE"
Wed 17 Sept 2014	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Ron Davis- "EVEN MORE HARDLY EVER HEARD OF COUNTRIES"
Sun 21 Sept 2014	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m

A PIECE FROM THE PRESIDENT, May 2014

It was mentioned in the last Newsletter that our society was looking to give a number of public displays, to promote our philatelic hobby and the Society. This has been progressed, in that we have arranged to have displays at two shopping centres.

The first display will be at the Mount Hutton shopping centre (Lake Macquarie Fair) on the 13, 14th June (Friday, Saturday). This is immediately before the monthly Wallsend Stamp Fair and Junior Stamp Activity Meeting on the 15th June, and the weekend prior to our next Swap and Sale night, (6.30 pm on 19th June at the Mayfield RSL), so the shopping centre display may generate some additional interest in all these activities.

The second display will be at the Belmont City Centre (Coles), on the 19, 20th September, the weekend prior to our September auction sale.

Activity has started for the June display with consideration of exhibits having public interest, preparation of handouts promoting philately and our society; display frames, signage and a list of other things to do.

A further task will be thinking up answers to the inevitable questions, such as "What can I do with a stamp collection I started when I was young" or " - - my father had", etc. Hopefully we can give that spark of interest or reactivate a latent one.

- Ed Burnard, President -

THE SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS, May 2014

It is timely that members are reminded of our ANNUAL COMPETITION which is held to coincide with the August Annual General Meeting on 8th August.

There are three classes or levels that are available.

NOVICE: Is a society member who has not won any medals either in any exhibition or awards at the Societies Annual Competition. FIVE pages plus a title page. Entries in the Novice Class will be judged by popular choice on the night of the AGM.

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

EXPERIENCED: Members who have achieved medals or awards at Regional, State or National Exhibitions. FIFTEEN or SIXTEEN pages which includes a title page. Judged by three appointed judges.

Entries in the Intermediate and Experienced section are judged by a panel of three judges, and will be required to be submitted for judging a week or so before the AGM (around 31st July - 1st August).

- John Moore , Secretary -

AUCTION REPORT, FEBRUARY 2014.

A great night at the Diggers Club ! Fine weather for a change and a huge turn out accordingly, with well over 50 people in attendance. 41 took bidding cards, and almost all were successful in winning some of the 473 lots on offer from our 24 vendors

This was our largest ever sale and close to the most lots ever sold, with 216 finding a new home. With 46% of the lots submitted selling, that's a really good result. Total sales for the night were \$1509, a surprisingly low tally with such a large number sold, but the lack of high value sales accounted for that

Highest price for the night of \$55 was paid for a Seven Seas album of used Australian containing many better items. Next came a stock book chock full of mini sheets and all sorts of other attractive issues and it sold for \$32.

Several lots then went for \$22, one notable item being a Danzig mini sheet, others being boxes of commercial covers and bagged stamps. Popular on this night were world stock books, but even more so were bags of Australian used stamps which all attracted spirited bidding. British Commonwealth was as ever a notable seller. The late sales then kept me busy with a small queue awaiting attention.

Thanks to all involved for making it such a successful night

Our next Auction will be on the 22nd of May, but before that we held a Daytime Swap and Sale Fair on Sunday April 6th at Sandra Baker's New Lambton Gallery, at 48 Mackie Avenue from 10am to 3pm. - a Report follows

- Don Catterall, Auction Convenor. Phone 4943 5639 -

Sign up today **for MyPost Concession**

The basic postage rate went up from 60 to 70 cents on 31st March 2014. YOU can get a concession !! Sign up now by filling in the application form in any AUSTRALIA POST store, or download the form from auspost.com.au/mypost and bring the completed form into your local Australia Post retail outlet. Make sure you have your valid Federal Government concession card with you.

Who is eligible?

Holders of these Federal Government concession cards: **Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, Department of Veteran's Affairs Card, Veterans' Repatriation Health Card.**

What is included?

- Free booklet of 5 concession stamps (worth \$3.00 !)
- Ability to purchase up to 50 concession stamps per year, at 60 cents instead of 70 cents each.
- MyPost concession card and digital mailbox
- Concessions on Mail Hold, and Mail Redirection services

How do I purchase concession stamps?

Concession stamps can be purchased in booklets of five stamps, and up to a total of 50 stamps per year, available at any Australia Post retail outlet. To buy concession stamps, simply present your MyPost concession card in-store. Most retail outlets will even be able to let you know how many concession stamps you have left on your account to purchase. The concession is valid to 2017.

How do I use concession stamps?

Concession stamps can be used on small and large domestic letters only (1 stamp and 2 stamps respectively, 3 stamps for over 125 grams). They are not valid for parcels or international services. Concession stamps do not have a denomination.



A SELECTION OF ONE-FRAMERS

- the display as described by JOHN PUGSLEY, Thursday 13th February 2014

Display No. 1 : (Traditional) : THE BRITISH ARMY IN EGYPT 1932 – 1941.

Previously displayed in Annual Competition in 2010 – but now improved with every one of the stamps being shown unused and with usage on cover. This time highlighting items of scarcity, including one identified by Andrew Brockett as only 6 known on cover (to New Zealand).

Display No. 2 : (Postal History/Social) : AUSTRALIANS AT THE BOER WAR.

You can't expect me to NOT show something from the Boer War period! BUT I hope you will appreciate it's National significance. NSW dominates with 7 pages out of the 16, but each of the other States is represented. Personal details where known are shown, as are the various rates used – coming down to a single 1d. rate quite quickly, plus the treatment of unstamped mail in Australia.

Display No. 3 : (Traditional) : EARLY ISSUES FROM EGYPT 1866-1914

My main interests are Boer War, and Great Britain early issues. However I also always have a third interest so as to keep me going when I cannot afford, or find, any new GB or Boer War material. Previously it was Australian States, then British India, but now it is EGYPT. Over the last few years I've accumulated a vast amount of material. So it is about time I started displaying it. Here's the first attempt Egypt 1866 to 1914. Included in the display is quite a bit of history which relates very closely to the items being shown. I found the perforation problems and answers on the first issue of great interest and have come up with an unusual way of showing this. I'm not sure what Judges would think of my answer!

Display No.4: (Traditional) : GREAT BRITAIN QUEEN VICTORIA JUBILEE ISSUES 1897 TO 1900

I couldn't leave out something from GB, so this is the result. I had to find out what could fit into the 15 or 16 page format and settled on this. The number of stamps issued in the period included the first bi-coloured stamps produced by De La Rue, and I could show them in both unused and used format as well as used on cover. Stamps used on cover above the standard 1d. rate were due to elements of overseas postage and/or registration fees. The last stamp issued, the 1/- bi-coloured stamp of 1900, had very little usage in Great Britain, and my example is from usage by the British Army in South Africa.

Display No. 5 : (Postal History/Social/Open Section ?) : LADYSMITH 1899 – 1900

I've tried to do something different here. Only about 50% of the items are of a philatelic nature. The story is of the Siege (2nd November 1899 to 28th February 1900) and the Relief of Ladysmith in the Boer War, including the lead-up-to and aftermath of the siege. Included are many picture-postcards, 2 maps, a real photograph, photo-copies from a contemporary magazine, part of a letter, and cigarette cards depicting images of British personalities involved in the story. The first two covers have a local interest in that they are from Charlestown and Newcastle (in NATAL actually) !

- J.P. -



The fourth special Xmas Seal issued 23/11/1935.



The Xmas Seal above was so popular that stocks became quickly depleted. As an interim measure this 'Provisional Christmas Seal' was produced, and issued 16/12/1935.

*** The difference between professionals and amateurs is that the professional is dedicated to the total eradication of errors. It has nothing to do with money. —Ron Barassi, AFL football coach

*** More than 12% of people surveyed believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife

PECULIAR PLACES AROUND THE WORLD

- display by RON DAVIS, Thursday 13th March 2014



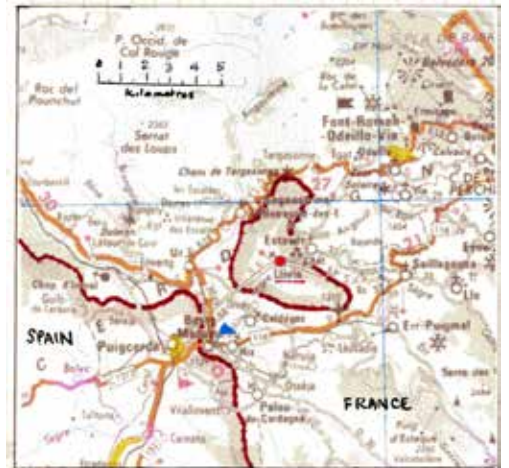
“Peculiar” has two meanings - “Weird” and “Unusual”. Most of Ron’s display was of unusual places, mostly postcards, because postal authorities usually don’t produce stamps of unusual places ! But a bit of everything - banknotes, a coin replica, first day covers, air mail stickers, postcards, postmarks - and stamps ...

People living underground in Spain and in Turkey, and living underground in Australia - in the opal-mining town of Coober Pedy . A set of ‘local’ stamps for the 1951 British atomic bomb blasts on Monte Bello Islands, Western Australia. An unusual view of Maui, Hawaii, at nighttime. Three ways you can go to HELL - in the U.S.A., Norway, and the Cayman Islands. A base in Antarctica named after Ron (?)...

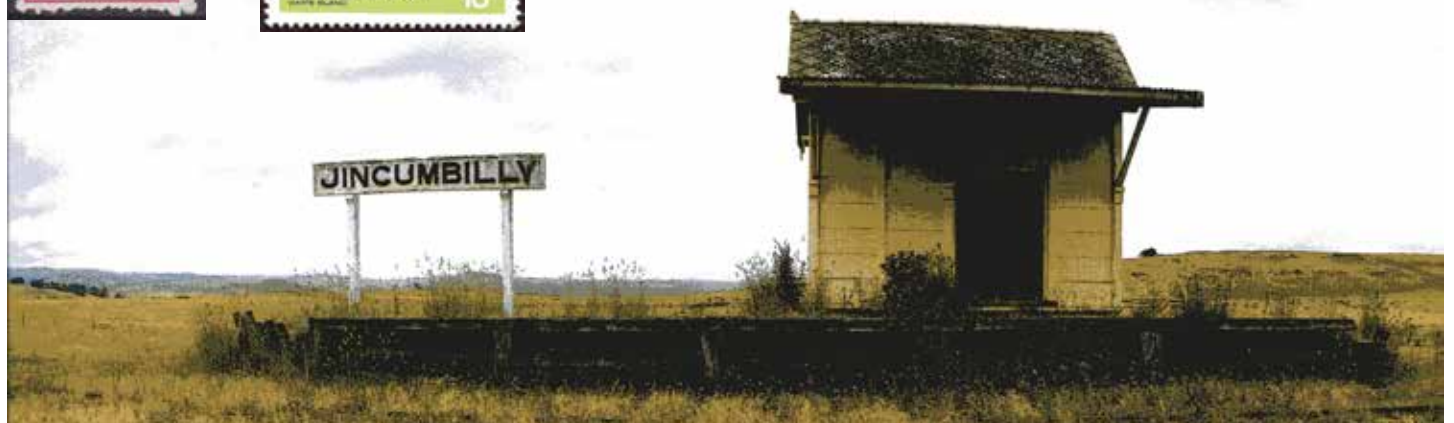


But a large part of the display was ENCLAVES around the world - tiny scraps of one country surrounded by another. The Naval Station in Jervis Bay NSW is an enclave of the A.C.T. within N.S.W. - or alternatively, an exclave of the A.C.T. Hutt River Province could be said to be an enclave within Western Australia, and the State of Rainbow Creek an enclave within Victoria - but these are now more correctly called micro-nations.

In 1944, royalist CAMPIONE D'ITALIA - an Italian enclave in Switzerland - broke away from fascist Italy and issued its own stamps. The mountainous Austrian territory of JUNGHOLZ is located within Germany, but connected to Austria by a single point of land called a 'quadripoint'. The Spanish enclave of LLIVIA is located in France, separated from Spain by about two kilometres, and has a very rugged history. Then there was Samnaun, a territory in the Alps in Switzerland, but only accessible by a single road through the Alps from Austria. Kleinwalsertal is similar - a portion of Austria only accessible by a single road from Germany. And then there was Baarle-Hertog (Belgium-Netherlands), and Büsingen (Switz.-Germany), and Walvis Bay (Namibia-South Africa); and Point Roberts and North-West Angle - both U.S. enclaves in Canada. It gets complicated!



- R.D. -



*** Rabbits love licquorice.

POPULAR CHOICE COMPETITION – SOMETHING PHILATELIC STARTING WITH THE LETTER “W” : Thursday 10th April 2014



The quality of ALL of the entries was outstanding, with votes spread right across all the 14 entries. And there was some controversy in the eventual results !

RUSSELL GODDARD – WINSTON CHURCHILL : A selection of stamps from around the world showing this famous British politician, statesman, painter and writer.

CAROL DAVIS – WINDMILLS : Postcards and stamps showing various types of Dutch windmills used for pumping water from the polders was Carol’s main theme, together with Spanish, Portuguese and Bulgarian mills used for milling grain, grinding paint, and other activities. She has been interested in windmills since she was aged 4, in South Perth, when she was going to school in Midland, W.A.

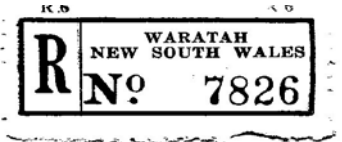
RON DAVIS – WATERWAYS OF OUTBACK AUSTRALIA : Ron’s display was mostly postcards showing scenes of outback rivers in flood and in drought, from the river’s source to where they flowed into Lake Eyre or into the sea, with a few stamps particularly relating to Lake Eyre and the wildlife around it.

BERNARD DOHERTY – WINDOW-FACE ENVELOPES : The very first window-face envelopes (1905) were ordinary paper with oil embedded into the window area to make it translucent. Later envelopes had foil, cellophane and then various sorts of clear plastic bonded to the envelope. A clear-faced “Ambulance Envelope” was used for damaged mail from the Mail Exchange.



GREG LAIDLER – WRITING : Greg showed different types and styles of writing which have been used over the years. Unusual !!

JOHN MOORE – REGISTERED LABELS FROM “W” TOWNS IN N.S.W. : Wallacia, Wentworth Falls, Wilberforce, Walla Walla, Wilcannia, Wattamondara, Whitebridge, Wantabadgery, Woodville, Ward’s River, Weston, West Wallsend ... John also included some interesting typographical errors.



RON DAVIS – WEIRD PLACES BEGINNING WITH THE LETTER “W” : How weird can you get ?! The countries of Witu (German East Africa), Wenden (Russia), Wuhu (China), and Wadhwan (India), shared with White Island (a volcano off New Zealand), and Wilkes Base (a former base in the Australian Antarctic Territory). Luckily there were small maps included showing the countries’ locations.

GLADYS TYACK – WILDLIFE WORLD : Gladys said that with the thousands (millions?) of wild animals, birds and insects around the world, you can’t fit much into 6 pages !

GORDON GIBBONS – W IS FOR WARTIME : Gaining **4th place** was Gordon’s entry, which showed some of the effects of the Second World War on postal communications and the mail services, particularly in South America. Censorship delayed mail, and for six months there were no air mail services between South America and Europe.

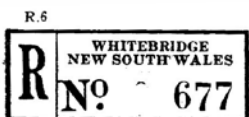
RUSSELL GODDARD – WOMEN ON STAMPS : A selection of various women shown on Australian stamps, some of them famous, from various occupations, gained Russell **Equal 3rd place**. Florence Nightingale, Dame Nellie Melba, Enid Lyons, Little Pattie, Kate Isabel Campbell ...

NORM TYACK – WATER CRAFT : **Equal 3rd place** also went to Norm’s collection of navy and other ships – IJN Yamato, HMS Pandora, RMS Titanic, the Mary Rose, HMAS Sydney, AHS Centaur He also brought along a few models of world-wide ships which he’d built.

DON CATTERALL – WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ‘HORIZONTAL SWANS’ : An impressive selection of these attractive Western Australian Revenue stamps (1904-1941), from one penny to £100 (a huge sum in 1904!) won **Equal 2nd place**. The 11 issues (99 stamps) were each different in some respects – colours, perforations or watermarks. The last issue in 1927 was used until 1941.

JOHN LAVENDER – N.S.W. TOWNS STARTING WITH THE LETTER “W” : Also gaining **Equal 2nd place** was John’s selection of covers, several of them very scarce, with numeral cancels and duplex (compound) cancels from 19th Century towns and villages in N.S.W.

ROGER EGGLETON – PARCEL POST – MONTGOMERY WARD AND COMPANY : The entry which gained the most votes, and hence **FIRST PLACE**, was rather controversial, because the title started with a “P”, or an “M” - although it did contain one “W”. At least one person wouldn’t vote for his entry because the title of the entry didn’t start with “W”. Trading in the U.S.A. at the end of the 19th Century, this was an early representation of parcel post activity. Sears Roebuck was in competition with this firm. Roger included pre-cancelled stamps, with ‘MW’ in the centre; these were reused surreptitiously, so thereafter a hand-stamp cancel included the month of use !



*** *Now you don't need to learn to cook before you leave home; you just need one of the new generation, intelligent microwave ovens. With these devices, you can cook your instant meals simply by swiping the packaging over a bar-code scanner on the front panel of the oven, it does the rest. This microwave will even track the contents of the packet, giving a warning if it contains ingredients you might be allergic to, or don't wish to eat.*

*** Ethelred the Unready, the English king in the 10th century, spent his wedding night in bed with his wife and his mother-in-law.

JOHN HILL was involved with Australia Post in the design of two further Cocos Island Barrel Mail commemorative stamps issued on 6th August 2013 which show historic letters in the background. John, known for his extensive Cocos Island collection, was invited to submit suitable covers for inclusion in the designs. One of these 2013 stamps is shown, together with the earlier issues.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Barrel Mail

The two 1984 stamps shown here were issued by Cocos (Keeling) Islands to commemorate the Barrel Mail system used in the islands from around 1909 to dispatch mail to, and receive mail from, overseas, using mostly passing P & O and Orient Line ships. This is the third stamp issue featuring the islands' Barrel Mail system. On 20 April 1984 three stamps and a souvenir sheet were issued to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the system and the 50c value in the 1976 Ships definitive issue showed the P & O liner RMS *Orontes* dropping Barrel Mail off the islands.

The mail service was well-organised, using specially designed watertight barrels ranging up to 50 gallons capacity. An approaching ship would notify the cable station on Direction Island, then islanders would take the outgoing mail, sealed in barrels, in small sailing boats (*jukongs* also *dukongs*) to the rendezvous offshore. The barrels were attached to a line trailing from the ship, pulled on board and then taken to Australia, Ceylon or the African mainland, depending on the ship's destination.

Barrels containing incoming mail were dropped overboard with distinctive red markers to be recovered by the islanders in the awaiting *jukongs*. The operation was often hazardous, especially when the connecting ship was a liner on a tight schedule from South Africa to Australia. In such cases, the best the Captain could do would be to reduce speed from 25 to 15 knots while the pick-up and drop-off took place. On occasions the barrels were lost.



Jukongs



Barrel mail with red marker dropped astern of RMS *Orontes*.



Distributing the mail.



Island Jukong (Dukong).



RMS *Morea* collected and dropped barrel mail 1900-1930.



Some mail dispatched to and from the islands in this way carried a variety of postal markings and cachets such as **Tin Can Mail** or **Orion Barrel** (*Orion* referring to the RMS *Orion*). The construction of an airstrip on the island and the introduction of a regular air service in 1952 brought the Barrel Mail system to an end in 1954.

The Armidale Circle Bulletin, August 2013

A LETTER FROM ENGLAND :

Some of your members may like to exchange Australian, New Zealand, Hong Kong or Singapore stamps for the British Isles or Europe. I am a member of three different Stamp Clubs and a Postcard Club in East Sussex. There are many members who would be interested in an exchange, which could be arranged on a catalogue value basis or some other such method agreeable to all.

Please contact me at this address : KEVIN DILLISTONE,
13 Shepherds Close, Little Common, BEXHILL-ON-SEA, East Sussex TN39 45Q, England.

THE APRIL SWAP AND SALE DAY, SUNDAY 6th APRIL 2014

Held at Sandra Baker's Studio 48 on a lovely Sunday morning, this event held great promise until 25 minutes before starting time when the heavens opened. The subsequent torrential downpour had to be seen to be believed and would certainly have washed away the intentions of quite a few participants. Accordingly our numbers were down into the 20's, yet all who attended were rewarded with some useful buys and plenty of philatelic fellowship. Seven members took sales tables with varied success, and perhaps Steve Morris went home with the biggest smile having not only been kept busy most of the time, but also winning the Lucky Door Prize !

We shall pray for better weather for our next Swap and Sale Night which will be held at 7pm. on June 19th at the Mayfield Diggers Club. Please come along and bring your wants lists, plus those unwanted items you would like to dispose of. Eager buyers are always on the hunt. Hope to see you there.

- Don Catterall, Events Coordinator.

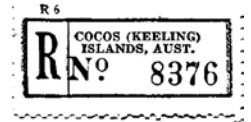
*** **FISHY BUSINESS IN PERU:** A set of 5 stamps depicting Peruvian fish was issued 1970 and it was subsequently discovered that not one of the fish were endemic ! - they were all European species ! The stamps were withdrawn but not until hundreds of 1,000s had been sold. To avoid any speculation they were again put on sale.



*** **WISDOM is not knowing what to do now, but what to do next.**

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).



“THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NEW ZEALAND”

- the display by **ED BURNARD**, Wednesday 19th FEBRUARY 2014

Despite the continuing use of new denomination ‘Machin Heads’ (stamp prices were increased to 60p and 50p for first and second-class mail in April 2013), Great Britain has recently produced a big range of interesting (and perhaps some less-interesting) stamps. Ed also displayed several of the latest “Middle Earth” mini-sheet issues from New Zealand, together with more beautiful “scene” stamps, for which New Zealand has become famous.



“COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS” POSTAL HISTORY TO 1963 -

the display by **JOHN HILL**, Wednesday 19th MARCH 2014

A cable station opened on Cocos in 1901, providing the first direct link with the outside world. Because of the unreliability of maritime mail, from 1907 to 1916, Cable Station staff developed a system whereby a brief message was cabled to Fremantle where it would be transcribed to a postcard and mailed out. It is by the creation of Cable Mail and Tin Can Mail that Cocos can be said to have made special contribution to Postal History. The mail delivery method called Tin Can Mail lasted from 1909 to 1954, although no special markings were known until 1949. A barrel was released from a passing ship, and collected on the down-run to Australia as this occurred in daylight hours. The ships trailed a rope in the water so that the islanders could attach a canister that could be hauled on board. Cocos (Keeling) served as a base in the war with Japan up to 1945, and the islands were a stop in early flights between Australia and South Africa. Shown here is an outgoing Tin Can Mail item dated November 1951, with Australian stamps, two cachets plus a handmade registration label applied on Cocos, and postmarking and re-registration in Perth. The first Cocos stamps were issued in 1963.



“HANDLING AND TREATMENT OF AUSTRALIAN REGISTERED MAIL, 1900-1966”

- the display by **JOHN MOORE**, Wednesday 16th APRIL 2014

From pre-Commonwealth to pre-Decimal – most of John’s research came from early Post Office Guides, the earliest of which was the 1903 edition held in the Philas Library. There are 2 or 3 print runs of this per year, and full guides run up to 900 pages ! From 1959 to 1966, there were no major changes – rates and procedures remained the same. Until the 1920’s, you couldn’t address registered mail to a Post Office box. A registered item had to have red lines across the face of the envelope or parcel in N.S.W., but Queensland, Victoria and South Australia had blue lines across the face of the item ! Britain and South Africa used blue, but in 1878 in N.S.W., there was a reference made to the use of red. Blue was used for Express Post. In 1906, registration labels were introduced, printed in red, but the other States continued using the previous colour – blue. The red R “rat-tail” label in 1908 was produced in various designs, so in 1917 a standard type of label was set – ‘R.6’ was the allocated form number. In 1925, rat-tail and ordinary ‘R’ labels were mixed, so in 1935, the ‘R’ was required to be the same on all labels.

On 11th December 1941, an additional War Tax of ½d. was introduced. In 1958, linen-lined registered envelopes were replaced by quality craft paper envelopes, which still gave a high level of security. Also included in John’s display were some “Avis de Reception” forms (Acknowledgement of Delivery) – these were either pinned (hence pinholes) or tied to the item. “Posted Out of Course” items had often been dropped into a mail box by mistake, and were officially registered later at the mail sorting centre.

There is no printed information on this subject done by anyone, so John intends to go into publication.

8d = 6d registration fee plus 2d postage
1938 (7 April) Big Hill NSW to Sydney



“THE TRIALS OF A GUEST SPEAKER” – March 1981

- referring to the City of Brisbane Stamp Club, meeting in their Germania Club.

When I agreed to give a display to this Stamp Club, I was told that there had been a change of meeting place, and was given information about the hall, and advised how to reach it.

I arrived early to find the hall locked, but I could hear music and laughter inside, so after two circumnavigations and finding no unlocked entrance, I rang the bell. The door was opened by a man who disappeared instantly, leaving me in a lobby leading to a well patronised bar and an empty ballroom.

There was a poster in the lobby, advertising the Stamp Club, but no sign of anyone I knew, so I made my way into the deserted ballroom, listened to the piped music, and enjoyed the air-conditioning while I read my book.

After about a quarter of an hour, some people came into the ballroom, switched on the lights, moved tables around, and set up the end of the room ready for a meeting. I did not recognise any of them, but as it was some time since I had attended this club, I assumed they had had a change of officials. But then, they opened a cupboard, pulled out a strip of carpet, and switched on a spotlight which illuminated ... wait for it ... a DARTBOARD !!

Soon after, a few familiar Stamp Club members arrived and began moving chairs and tables at the other end of the ballroom - this proved to be the stamp section. Soon it was all action, people milling around the ballroom and in the alcoves, setting up display boards, aiming for and getting a bullseye on the dartboard, putting out club exchange sheets, and socializing. The piped music was turned off, the air-conditioning turned up to cope with the extra people, and the noise level rose to a steady hum.

At this juncture, the President opened the meeting, and introduced the various reports, and welcomed me as a visiting speaker. While this was going on, a procession of men carrying chairs and drinks made its way across the ballroom, past us and into a room behind the stage. This caused a passing interest and we paused to allow them to settle their chairs, close doors, etc, etc.

As I had a train to catch, when I finally began my DISPLAY, my time was restricted and I had to condense the talk - which was fortunate, as against the noise of THE air conditioning, the size of the hall, and the applause and comments of the darts players, I stood Buckley's chance of being heard, but I struggled on, shouting myself hoarse, and the audience strained to hear, leaning forward and cupping ears in hands ... but there was MORE to come ... the gentlemen in the room behind the stage erupted into song - they were a male voice choir practising what sounded like GERMAN beer songs ! WE broke into laughter ... what else could we do ???

Despite these distractions, it was a reasonably successful evening, and the club members looked at the display and asked appropriate questions. It must have been acceptable, as the Secretary said ... "next time you come, we will put you on a little earlier, and use the public address system". ... Never a dull moment at this Club ... b u t ... the next time I go ???

(From Ipswich Stamp Club Bulletin Qld).

This interesting stamp from Greenland (SG 144, 1984 50th Anniversary of the death of Karale Andreassen) has prompted some interesting suggestions for a caption :

- “Please don’t feed the Bears.”
- “There’s a bear in there - It’s Play School.”
- “Was it a good idea for Tourism Greenland to commission a wildlife stamp.?”
- “KALAALLITNUNAAT” = Tastes like Chicken.
- “Next time I’ll bring a gun instead of a knife!”
- “What do you think of my new man-skin rug ?”
- “Anyone for Eskimo pie ?”
- “Out of it, Inuit”
- “It’s only a flesh wound.”
- “I warned the mailman if he bent any of my First Day covers, his life wouldn’t be worth living!”
- “Due to slight technical difficulties this episode of “Survivor” has been cancelled....”
- “Hey mum, look what followed me home from school – can we keep him?”



*** Young people are suffering memory loss due to their reliance on technology. Experts are seeing a huge surge of cases of “digital dementia”, with youngsters no longer able to remember everyday details such as their phone numbers.



*** Don't use a tomahawk to remove a fly from your friend's forehead. (Chinese proverb).

Octopuses are orphaned at an early age because their parents die shortly after breeding.