



VIEWS FROM NOBBY'S

Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

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

Website : www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au

November 2024 Newsletter 212 EDITOR: Jim MacDougall

We meet at **2:00** on the **SECOND THURSDAY** and at **2:00** on the **THIRD WEDNESDAY** of each month at **Pasterfield Centre**, Horizon Drive, Cameron Park

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Special guest

At our monthly meeting on November 14, we are hosting 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. Don't miss this outstanding show.

The format of the day will be a bit different from usual – he likes to lay his display out on the tables, so that we can walk around to examine it.

Mick and visitors from other clubs will probably be here around 1:00 or 1:30 pm, so come earlier than usual.

14 NOV Thurs – monthly meeting, displayer Mick Drury *KGV shades and KGV Postal Stationery*

20 NOV Wed – social meeting, displayer Tony Walker, *Soviet Arctic Drift Stations 1937-1962*

27 NOV Wed – *Auction* set up at 6:30pm, viewing from 7:00

28 NOV Thurs – *Christmas get-together*, from 12 noon

12 DEC Thurs – monthly meeting, *President's Philatelic Quiz*

9 JAN Thurs – monthly meeting, displayer Ed Burnard, *Germany: Thurn & Taxis and Wurttemberg*

15 JAN Wed – social meeting, displayer Jim MacDougall, *Barbados*

13 FEB Thurs – monthly meeting, *Members bring 6 pages of something new (or interesting or ...)*

19 FEB Wed – social meeting, displayer Ed Burnard, *Colony of New South Wales*

13 MAR Thurs – monthly meeting, displayer Andrew Brockett, *Postal History of WW2*

19 MAR Wed – social meeting, displayer Ron Davis, *Hardly-Ever-Heard-of Countries*

10 APR Thurs – monthly meeting, *members bring 6 pages on a philatelic topic starting with the letter G*



Christmas get together

Join us for our annual end-of-year festivity. From 12 noon, Thurs Nov 28. Bring a plate (main or sweets or slice) to share. There is no charge. Also an optional 'Show and Tell' of any non-philatelic interest you may like to show/tell us about.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

In the past three months we have been very busy with some great displays. Paul Storm was our first guest displayer for some time, thank you Paul. Our displayers this month are Mick Drury and Ian Fuary, with KGV postal cards and KGV shades. This promises to be a large gathering and a memorable display.

Later in the month we have our society auction, being the evening of Wednesday 27 November. This was to be the first auction under the 'new management' of Greg Korsman, but due to his illness the 'retired' organiser Don Catterall will manage this auction. We all wish Greg a speedy recovery.

The following day is our annual Christmas get together. This follows the usual pattern – bring a plate with some food for a luncheon. No charge, and the show and tell which follows is optional.

Our secretary John has picked up another large donation, this time four boxes of albums. Some I have broken up into smaller lots, some stockbooks of used stamps I have left intact as a single lot. The first of these is due for auction at the December monthly meeting, with other lots to follow in subsequent months. Upcoming auctions can be viewed on the website.

At the Philas AGM on 2 November John Moore was elected Vice President Country. He was nominated by four clubs/societies affiliated with Philas. Congratulations, John. We hope that the new team will resolve the issues which have beset Philas lately.

Happy collecting., Greg Laidler, President

SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS.

The next big philatelic event in New South Wales will be the 2025 *Sydney Stamp and Coin Expo* to be held March 20-23. One of the key themes will be commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Sydney Views issue, the first postage stamps to be issued by New South Wales.

The venue is the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex, 5 Wentworth Park Road, Glebe NSW which has good public transport links by light rail from Central Station.

To find more details visit the exhibition website:

<https://www.sydney2025.com.au>

John Moore, Secretary



Around the Clubs

Toronto Stamp Club – Bolton Point Community Hall 68A Middle Point Road, Bolton Point

Meets: first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm

Morisset Stamp Club – Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Kahibah & Awaba Streets, Morisset

Meets: Fourth Saturday of each month (excluding December), from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm

Wyong and District Philatelic Society – Canton Beach Sports Club, 11 Hibbard, Street, Toukley

Meets: third Wednesday of the month, 7:00 pm

Lake Haven Masonic Retirement Village, 12 - 16 Christopher Crescent, Lake Haven

Meets: first Wednesday of the month 1:00 pm

Gosford District Philatelic Society – Erina Rugby League Football Club, 18 Ilya Ave, Erina

Meets: - First Monday of the month, except January, at 1:30 pm.

We are disappointed to learn that the *Maitland Stamp Club* is having to close for lack of members. It's last meeting will be at 2:00 on the 2nd Monday in December at the Polish Hall on Grant St.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**Thurs, Aug 8**

This meeting consisted of the AGM , the display of the entries in the Annual Competition, and the awarding of the Doron trophy. Officeholders for the coming year are:

President – Greg Laidler

First Vice President – Jim MacDougall

Secretary & Public Officer – John Moore

Treasurer - Tony Walker

Second vice president – Roger Eggleton

Publicity officer & Webmaster - Greg Laidler

Newsletter editor – Jim MacDougall

Operations convenor – Greg Korsman

Wednesday meetings – Ross Zimmerman

Honorary auditor – Don Rutherford

Honorary solicitor – David Noonan

Committee members – Don Rutherford,

Barry Parker, John Edwards, Don

Catterall, Chris Ashurst-Smith

The Doron Trophy for the best member display of the year was won by Tony Walker for his excellent display *British Borneo 1939-47*

Vale Warren Oliver (1937-2024)

Our good friend and active long term NPS member Warren Oliver passed away on 9 Sep 2024, aged 87. A man of many roles, Warren will be widely missed.

Philately. For many years until his passing, Warren was President of Toronto Stamp Club, as well as a strong supporter of Newcastle Philatelic Society. As a philatelist, he was an expert of a very high order. His vast knowledge and special collections focused on colonial New South Wales — pre-stamp entires, Sydney views, Laureates and Diadems, the 1897 Charities, and the numerical postmarks. In every category his collections were at the top of their class, and he delighted to show us selections as club displays.

Biographical. Born and grew up in Cobar, completed Civil Engineering degree, became Shire Engineer. Responsible for all kinds of infrastructure, including roads and bridge construction. Warren was a qualified pilot and used aviation as part of his work. Warren and wife Louise are survived by son Anthony and daughter Samantha. Louise strongly supported Warren's activities, and was fondly missed by all when she passed away several years ago.

Service. Among his many roles, Warren played Rugby Union well into his thirties, and Louise ran the club supporters' group, including serious fundraising and entertaining. When they retired to Bolton Point, Warren continued in service roles with support from Louise. For the Toronto Rotary Club, Warren was a regular fundraiser and project participant. Warren usually led the Warners Bay Walking for Pleasure seniors group on its weekly walks. He always thoroughly researched and planned these walks, and Louise was an enthusiastic participant until declining health no longer permitted. As well respected role models and friends to all, in memory we are grateful to them both.

— Don Catterall & Roger Eggleton

Auction

Our last evening auction for 2024 will be held on Wed, Nov 27 at the Pasterfield Centre. Set up is at 6:30 pm, viewing at 7:00 and auction from 7.30pm. New auction manager Greg Korsman is ill, so Don Catterall will come out of retirement to manage the auction, with the usual band of helpers. There will be lots of bargains. Please come and find some treasures to buy. Happy hunting!

THE HYPER-INFLATION PERIOD IN GERMANY, 1920 TO 1923

Greg Laidler, Thurs, Sept 12

I thought I had seen some good hyper-inflation displays, but Greg's display was really impressive! He had some 90% of all the stamps Germany issued between 1920 and 1923, which started with the "normal" five mark and ten mark stamps and went dramatically higher to 1923, ending with a 50,000,000,000 marks (50 billion) stamp for a postcard, and 320 billion for the overseas rate! It saw 9 million times increases between 5th and 12th November 1923. The causes of the hyper-inflation are still being debated. Germany had borrowed heavily to fund the war effort of World War I (1914-1918) and could not repay the debt. It printed money to pay the debt, and so the value of the mark declined. The country could not afford to buy imported goods or raw materials, and the people could not afford to buy food, consequently there was starvation, riots, blaming Jews, and the spread of right-wing ideas which led to rise of the Nazism.

The base sheets were printed in Berlin and overprinted in regional cities to save time. Some overprints occur only in certain towns, some are rouletted and some perforated. Most mint stamps are very cheap to buy, but used stamps may have forged postmarks. Even though they are mostly cheap to buy, they can be difficult to locate. Many of the scarce overprints have been forged. Mint stamps still turn up in modern packets and in old albums.



One of the covers which Greg displayed came from a German legal firm with 140 marks on it in stamps. They were lucky!

The following day postage went up to 1400 marks – 10 times as much. (And WE worry about 3.2% inflation!). People would be paid in the afternoon, and immediately go out and spend it, because it would be worthless the following morning. Stamps quickly became useless before stocks were used up, but were still used, and excess stamps were sold to overseas collectors. The economy was revalued on 1st December 1923, with one deutschmark equal to one trillion (1,000,000,000,000) marks!



R J Davis

POST MARKS AND DATES ON CANCELS, PART 2

Chris Ashhurst-Smith Wed, Aug 21

This display consisted of examples of postmarks mostly from the period 1841 to about 1950 and a small number of other collectable dates. The postmarks were collected from mail used for regular correspondence and from items used for government departments, legal communications and telegrams, many on cover. Postmark examples were mostly from post offices in England, Wales and Scotland, with some from some Commonwealth countries, mostly chosen for the unusual place names such as Chew Magna, Chipping Sodbury, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Bridge of Earn and Sandakan on a popular Commonwealth stamp from 1931. In addition, noted are examples of cancels from some of the numerous other 'Newcastles' around the globe, such as Canada, Jamaica, Natal, England and Western Australia.



One would have thought that a family name of Ashhurst might have been hard to find, but Chris had several postmarks of it in his display, from India in 1944. Another was from his birthplace at Headless Cross – a place less macabre than its name suggests! AND he had postmarks showing the anniversary of his wedding. As well as the UK, in this display we find Ascension Island, King George VI from British West Africa, a cover from Petersfield to the Governor of the Bahamas in 1938, British Commonwealth cancels, and even Australia (32 types from Tasmania, and from Newcastle in 1904 and 1933!) He had Machin postmark dates by the month – September and October.



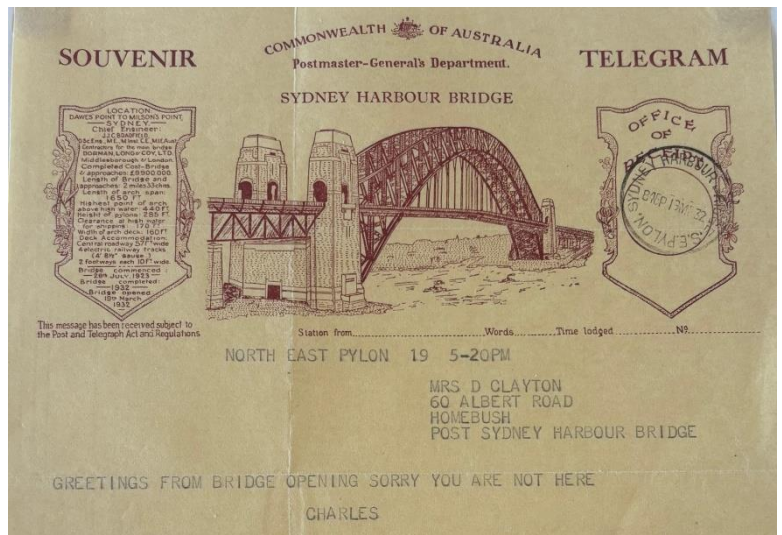
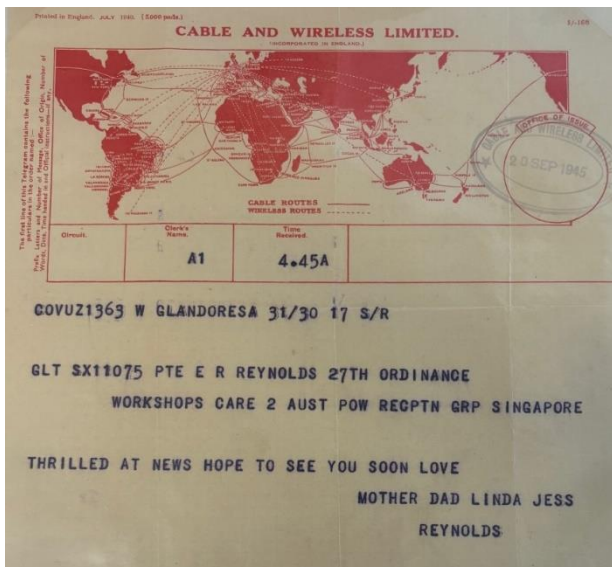
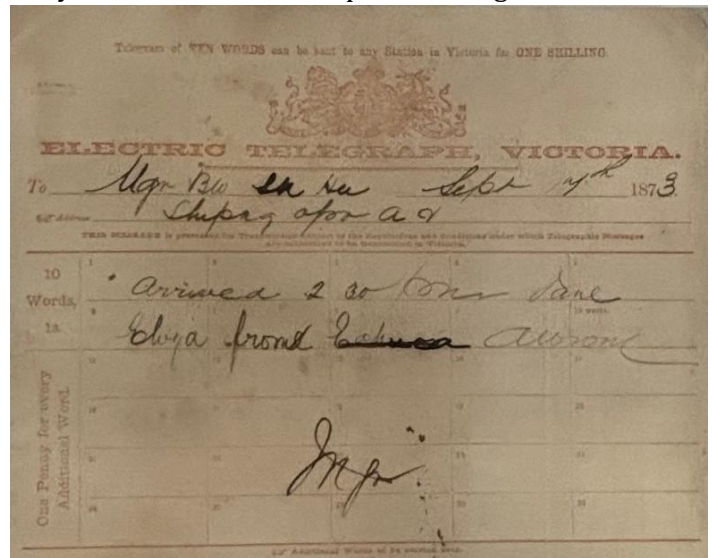
A magnificent display, but perhaps the two best examples were a very early penny black Maltese Cross postmark of 1841 from Boston to Harblington, and a CHRISTMAS DAY cancel from Stourport, 25 December 1903. Wow!



THE EASTWOOD-EPPING TELEGRAM COLLECTION Paul Storm Thurs, Oct 10

Telegrams were an essential and widely used form of communication in Australia for many decades and were only gradually replaced by telephones through the 20th century. Paul Storm brought us the Milton Hook collection called *Australian Telegrams: Colonial and Commonwealth* which was donated to the Eastwood-Epping Philatelic Society last year. It documents the large variety of both official and private telegrams and the envelopes in which they were delivered.

Telegrams carried many kinds of news. Government telegrams were dreaded during WWI for the news of some soldier's death. But they also were popular for greetings: birthdays, weddings, births, etc. Many early forms were government issued, such as the 1873 example from Victoria, shown here. Others were issued by private companies such as Cable & Wireless, and Reuters. Souvenir forms were issued for special occasions such as the opening of the Harbour bridge in 1932 and the coronation of King George V in 1937. A number of telegrams from foreign countries were included. This fine collection had such a variety of material - it was certainly an eye-opener for me.



SWITZERLAND

Ken Connolly Wed, Sept 18 11

A good turnout of 21 members was there for Ken's display of stamps from Switzerland. Ken has been collecting this area for 40 years and has built up a fine collection, especially the early issues.

The first stamps were issued by the cantons of Zürich (1843), Geneva (1843) and Basel (1845) for their own use. These were among the earliest issues anywhere in the world. Shown here is Basel's 2½ rappen (=pfennig) stamp, the only stamp it issued. It is the world's first to be printed in three colours. Zürich's issues of 1843 were the first postage stamps issued in continental Europe. The 4-rappen stamp paid for letters mailed within the city, while the 6-rappen (shown here) was for letters going anywhere in the canton.



The first issues for the whole country of Switzerland came out in 1850. These designs featured a seated figure, *Helvetia*, the personification of the country, and the denomination written in three languages.

When a new definitive set was issued in 1854 *Helvetia* was used rather than writing the country name in the four official language. It was the Latin name for the early people of the region and has been used ever since. These continued in use, with a number of variations in colour, perforation, and paper, into the 20th century. Ken had a remarkable collection of these early issues, both mint and used, and including the scarce canton stamps.



The early 1900s brought issues we are more familiar with - William Tell's son, William Tell, and various pictorial series. For various reasons many stamps were overprinted. The William Tell stamp here is publicising the League of Nations, established in 1920.



Ken's display was comprehensive, informative and nicely presented. A very impressive effort on an area that is not well known by most of us.

POSTCARDS THROUGH HISTORY

Don Catterall Wed, Oct 16

Well, what a show this was! We've seen many exhibits of Don's postcards over the years, but this one was different - his extensive display showed us the history of postcards from their beginning up until modern times. As well we saw the huge variety of types of cards that have been produced and the evolution of the subjects portrayed on them. This was a great overview of this important collecting area.

Starting in the 1870s in many countries, the original post cards were post-office issued cards, blank on one side and pre-stamped. Soon cards appeared with a picture beside the address space on the stamped side.

By the 1890s, cards in the modern format began to appear, with the message occupying only half of the front and the picture covering the back. This period before WWI witnessed huge growth in their use,



because with a cost of one penny and several mail deliveries each day, they were a popular means of communication with friends and businesses in the same town.

Such wide popular usage encouraged post card makers to choose many different subjects. Also people began to collect them (naturally!) and store them in special postcard albums. During WWI, many cards pictured wartime propaganda; some before and after pictures of destroyed towns in France are very sobering. I especially liked the Bairnsfather battlefield cartoon cards. Occasionally cards were made from photos on photographic paper, like the greeting style card shown here by famous photographer Frank Hurley. These are scarce and eagerly sought by collectors.

The variety of postcards was limited only by peoples' imagination. They pictured dogs, movie stars, towns warships, trains, comics, churches and so on! Cards were made from leather, copper, celluloid, silk and or were woven or crocheted, one even had real hair on the picture of a woman. We saw cards shaped like Australia, like a London bus and like a bookmark! This is an open-ended collecting area, and sincere thanks to Don for such a fine summary of it.



Annual Competition

As well as the election of officers, the AGM on Aug. 8 featured the entries in the Annual Competition. The entries were judged by Ron Davis, Don Catterall and Tony Walker. This year there were five entries and head judge Ron Davis commented on the high quality. Following are the entries along with the award given by the judges.

- Ross Zimmerman *Art Nouveau – Influence on Stamp Design*; Gold
- Greg Laidler *Postcard record of the tour of duty of John Johnson, Engine Room Artificer, Royal Navy Australian Station* Vermeil
- Russell Goddard *US Bicentennial 1976 – International Tributes on FDC* Silver
- Ross Zimmerman *Ascension Island 1922 – 1953* Large Vermeil
- Paul Killen, *Through the Suez Canal* Large Silver



Upcoming Exhibitions

Royalpex 2025 – March 7 to 9, in Palmerston North, New Zealand. lakatoistamps@gmail.com

EuroPhilEx 2025 – May 7 to 11, Birmingham. UK. glewis@custom-made.com.au

Hobart National One Frame – October 31 to November 2, Hobart. hesperus@netspace.net.au

Uruguay 2025 – February 17 to 22, Punta Del Este, Uruguay. geoff@brusden-white.com.au

ST LAWRENCE SEAWAY

In 1954 Canada and the United States began collaborating on a major engineering project – to make it possible for oceangoing vessels to travel from the Atlantic Ocean up the St Lawrence River to all five of the Great Lakes. This enormous undertaking required an extensive system of canals, locks and channels, and it permits ships to travel up to 3700 kilometres inland from the ocean. The Seaway was officially opened five years later on July 26, 1959 by Queen Elizabeth and President Eisenhower. The locks and canals have been periodically upgraded to permit larger vessels. Winter freezing forces the Seaway to close for several months each year.



The two countries agreed on a joint stamp issue to recognise the occasion; the stamps were identical in design with only the inscriptions and denominations differing. Both stamps were issued on the opening day. This was the first time that these two countries had collaborated on an issue, and in fact was one of the earliest such joint issues in philatelic history.



The Canadian Seaway stamp has been the source of Canada's most famous printing error. About two months after the date of issue, a hotel clerk in Winnipeg who had bought part of a sheet discovered the inversion. Soon after the publicity, more sheets were found. The sheets had to be passed through the press twice, once for each colour. During the second pass, eight sheets went



through the press the wrong way. The error is described as the frames being inverted rather than the centres. Many of the original 400 stamps have been lost or destroyed, but both mint and used copies still appear for sale occasionally. A recent sale from Vance Auctions featured both mint and used copies, with suggested prices of up to \$10,000. Shown here is a replica that I purchased on eBay for a few dollars; it looks quite convincing. Inverts on cover are rare – only 14 are known to exist.



Congratulations! on fine displays in the Canberra Stamp Show in September:
 Viv Manwaring, Postal Stationery: *Australian Enstamped Envelopes - Federation to 1937 Gold*
 Mark Saxby, Postal History: *Australian Private Perfins Vermeil*