



Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

VIEWS FROM NOBBY'S

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

Website : www.philas.org.au/newcastle

MAY, 2010 : Newsletter No. 153 : EDITOR: Ron Davis

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR SOCIETY

THE NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETS 7.30pm SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, MAYFIELD 'DIGGERS' EX-SERVICES CLUB, 2nd FLOOR MEETING ROOM, HANBURY STREET, MAYFIELD.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME.

DATES	DETAILS
Thurs 13 May 2010	"POLES APART" - Joint display by Tony Walker and Don Rutherford
Sun 16 May 2010	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , Junior Stamp Activities Meeting at 11 a.m.
Wednesday 19 May 2010	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, - Display by Howard Bridgman : "WEATHER"
Thurs. 20 May 2010	STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02- 4943 5639)
Thurs 10 June 2010	"POT-POURRI" - Display by Paul Thomas, Sydney
Wed. 16 June 2010	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Don Rutherford - "THE ½d KANGAROO 1938-45 – STAMPS AND USAGE"
Sun. 20 June 2010	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , Junior Stamp Activities Meeting at 11 a.m.
Thurs. 24 June 2010	SWAP AND SALE NIGHT from 6.30 pm (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)
Thurs 8 July 2010	Display by PAUL STORM, Sydney – His Choice
Sun. 18 July 2010	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , Junior Stamp Activities Meeting at 11 a.m.
Wed. 21 July 2010	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Sandra Baker - "PRE-HISTORY- China, East Europe and South America"
Thurs. 12 August 2010	ANNUAL COMPETITION , A.G.M. and Awards Night
Sun 15 August 2010	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , Junior Stamp Activities Meeting at 11 a.m.
Wed 18 August 2010	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Diana Bridgman – "CZECHOSLOVAKIA"
Thurs 9 September '10	Display by ARTHUR GRAY, from Sydney – Selected Australian stamp issues.

- A PIECE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT -

Congratulations to all those who took part in the Mini-Expo 2010 "100 Years of Stamps", at Studio 48. It was a GREAT SUCCESS. Our Society's 'Achievement' Certificates were awarded to three of our members - Sandra Baker, Don Catterall and Mark Saxby - whose skill and effort went far beyond the call of duty.

The APRIL Popular Choice Competition night went extremely well, with a very high standard being maintained throughout the 13 entries. Carol Davis was judged the overall winner on the night, with her entry "Ships of the Desert".

Results from the PHILAS Competition in Sydney, entered by 4 of our members, are included in the 'Snippets' on Page 2.

The dates shown on the Society's diary (above) are set out for your convenience - please attend when you can, and invite your friends and family to join in whenever possible.

I hope to see you there. And I hope you are all working on your entries for the Annual Competition in August! Three Sections – BEGINNERS (6 pages, for members who haven't won any Society competition), INTERMEDIATE (10 pages, for those who HAVE won a Society competition), and EXPERIENCED (15 pages).

- Keith Kestel, President -

- Vendors on our Auction Nights are asked to close lots up on the tables instead of spreading them out.
- The ANGEL FALLS in Venezuela is the tallest waterfall in the world at nearly a kilometer high !

THE SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS

You will notice that there is now some new and additional information on this Newsletter's Masthead, Page 1. For many years the Society has maintained two Post Offices Boxes : one at Jesmond and the one that you are more familiar with at Newcastle. We recently decided not to renew our Newcastle PO Box when it expires March 2011, with all mail to go to P.O. Box 34, Jesmond, 2299. This was seen as a sensible thing to do, given the rapidly rising costs to lease P.O. Boxes, plus it is more convenient for those concerned to collect the mail from Jesmond. A link through the Philas website that can be used to access information about the Society, as well as recent Newsletters, is also part of the MASTHEAD.

Congratulations are extended to Kim and Kevin Dwyer, Lionel Savins and Mark Saxby on their CANBERRA EXHIBITION results. I understand it was Mark's first attempt at multi-frame exhibiting. Well done, Mark, and congratulations on receiving a special prize as well.

On the 17th April, a team of four, comprising of John Pugsley, Warren Oliver, Bernard Doherty and John Moore entered one frame exhibits in the annual PHILAS INVITATIONAL COMPETITION which is held amongst four NSW metropolitan based clubs. The standard of entries received was reportedly of a very high standard with The Royal Philatelic Club being the winners with an aggregate of 332 points, followed by The Philatelic Society of NSW 325, The Australian Commonwealth Collectors Club of NSW 324, and Newcastle 308.

Attached to this Newsletter is a list of SURPLUS LIBRARY MATERIAL that is available to members on a first come first served basis. In the case of identical requests arriving at the same time, a draw from the hat will determine the successful applicant. You will note that requests should be sent to my email address or to my Post Office box to arrive no later than 28th May. Please no telephone call requests. At the same time these items will be offered to Morisset, Toronto and Maitland Stamp Clubs, once again on a first come first served basis, with Newcastle members having first priority. Any items remaining after the 28th May will be donated to the Newcastle University for one of their future book sales. To those requesting catalogues, you may wish to suggest an alternative edition in case your choice is no longer available.

- John Moore, Secretary, email : moore.john@optusnet.com.au -

REPORT ON OUR MINI-EXHIBITION IN STUDIO 48, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 6/7th and 13/14th FEBRUARY 2010

This Mini-Exhibition, 100 YEARS OF STAMPS 1910-2010, was held at Studio 48, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, running from 10.00 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Our members provided twenty 15-page frames of material for this event, fifteen being Philatelic and five frames of Local Historic Postcards.

Heatwave conditions blighted matters somewhat, but numbers were steady over the four days with 205 people signing the attendance register. The first Sunday was the busiest day when 59 came along, 9 being our members and 50 visitors. We were happy to see support from local clubs with Maitland, Toronto and Morisset all being represented.

Three of the four 2009 Year Books donated by Australia Post as Lucky Door Prizes were won by visitors: only one of our members got a sniff!

The Souvenir Packs created by Mark Saxby and Ron Davis sold steadily and at the last count only around 40 of the 200 that were produced were unsold. Our thanks to Sandra Baker for providing such a suitable location and for dreaming up the idea. Thanks also to the members who provided the displays and also to everyone who assisted in so many ways.

Winners of Lucky Door Prizes at the Studio 48 Mini-Exhibition :

Sat Feb 6th 26 : Stewart Moore, of Redhead
Sun Feb 7th 88 : George Szentes, of Wickham
Sat Feb 13th Stephen Morris, of Lambton
Sun Feb 14th 198 : Dahliiss Procter, of Warabrook



Stamp Displays

1. 100 Years of Australian Stamps
2. History of Newcastle Post Office
3. What People Collect
4. Music, Maestro, please.
5. Libraries and Literature
6. Fungi
7. Ambling Around Africa
8. Hardly Ever Heard of Countries
9. Russia in Turmoil
10. Coconuts

Postcard Displays

11. Postcards of Early Newcastle
12. Postcards of Early Newcastle
13. Local Postcard Images of Ralph Snowball
14. Early Newcastle Shipping Postcards
15. Australian Military Postcards.

Stamp Displays in the Juniors Room

16. Stamps : History of Steam Locomotives
17. Stamps : SPACE – First Man on the Moon.
18. Stamps : Motor Bikes
19. Stamps : Walt Disney.
20. Stamps : Navigators.

- Don Catterall, Operations Convenor.

At the Newcastle Philatelic Society's night-time meeting on THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY, 2010, JOHN HILL displayed part of his Large-Gold-medal-winning collection –

“COCOS - KEELING ISLANDS”

It is believed that the isolated northern island of the Cocos (Keeling) Group was discovered in 1609 by Captain William Keeling of the East India Company. The islands were uninhabited until 1826, when the first settlement was established on the main atoll. The following year, Captain Clunies-Ross, a Scottish seaman, brought a number of Malays to the islands and formed a second settlement there. He set about improving the coconut trees already growing there. There have been two important phases in the history of Cocos, both related to its strategic location in the Indian Ocean. The first was a cable station, until the development of wireless lessened its importance. John's display included one of six examples known of messages sent by cable with Cocos usage. Sent from Cocos on 25-8-1911, the W.A. blue unsurfaced card had a Perth machine cancel, 29 May 1911, and a very brief message. From Perth to its addressee in Malta took 27 days.

all well - Love to all.



On 9th November 1914, a party from the German cruiser *Emden* landed on Cocos with the object of wrecking the cable and wireless installations, but HMAS *Sydney* arrived, and in the engagement that followed the *Emden* was set on fire and forced to beach on North Keeling Island.

In 1942, during World War II, shells from a Japanese warship badly damaged the cable station. For most of the War, Allied troops were stationed on the islands, which between 1944 and 1946 were under military administration. During this period, Cocos became an important air link as a base for flying-boats between Australia and Ceylon. In 1944, an airstrip was built on West Island, which became a vital link in the air service between Australia and South Africa after the war. This use as an air base prompted the Australian Government to arrange Cocos' transfer from Singapore's to Australian administration in 1955.



Meanwhile, mail was received and sent from the islands via the Tin Can Mail with the assistance of passing frigates. John's display included an incoming cover which arrived in Cocos-Keeling Islands on 15th December 1949, with a Route mark "Cocos Is. per frigate", and an out-going letter dated 2nd December 1949 from the

Cable and Wireless operator saying: "I have today received your letter of yesterday's date sent ashore in the barrel which we collected from the Orion..." "This is the first time I have seen the calling of the Orion at Cocos, and I must say the dropping of a barrel is very much appreciated by those here Your addressing your letter "Dear Sir or Madam" caused much amusement here as there are no women on the island at all – it is essentially a bachelor station. The manager and engineer are married although their

wives are not here with them, and the rest of the staff are bachelors. There are five of us of which I am the eldest – 25." On 2nd November 1951, Australia bought land from the Clunies-Ross estate on West Island as a site for an airfield, and the inaugural passenger flight from Sydney to South Africa via Cocos by Qantas Empire Airways took place on 1st September 1952. Meanwhile, the Royal Australian Air Force had a post office and postal service operating from Cocos. John included several relevant items in his display.

Following Australia taking over administrative responsibility in 1955, a new postmarker and registration labels were introduced. On 18th February 1957, a further new datestamp and registration label were provided.

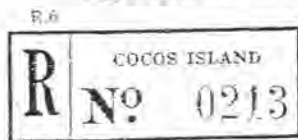
Australian stamps and postage due stamps were used until 11th June 1963, when Cocos started to issue its own stamps.



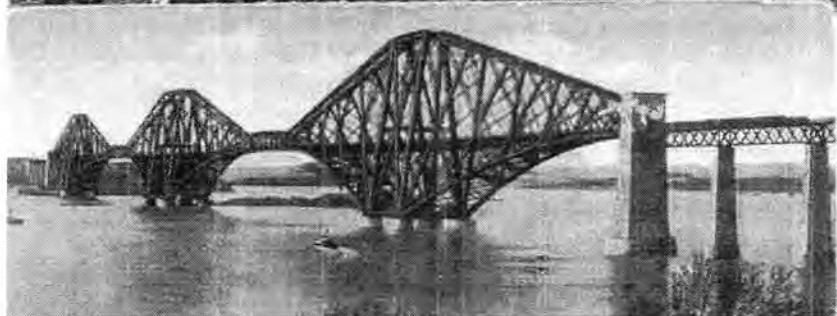
The Cocos Islands remained an important staging point for international aircraft flying the Australia-Africa route until 1967, when the introduction of long-range jet aircraft made Mauritius the staging point instead.

It isn't often that our members can view a collection of this quality, and justice can't really be done to the fascinating display in this short article.

- RJD -



Display by RON DAVIS : "BRIDGES AND CASTLES", 11th March 2010



"I have tried to select **castles** and **bridges** which have some significance, as well as little ones and big ones and unusual ones," Ron said as he opened his display. "You can imagine the thousands there are to choose from." "The display is mostly postcards. When something the size of a bridge or castle is reduced to the size of a postage stamp, the result is often disappointing. The French engraved stamp issues are perhaps the most successful."

"My interest in **castles** began nearly 60 years ago when I was in high school, and my cousin took me out in a sailing boat to watch the start of the Sydney to Hobart yacht race in 1952. We then sailed around to Middle Harbour, where there was a "castle" – a large impressive stone house with battlements all around the top. I fell in love with the idea of owning my own "castle" one day, but so far I've only achieved castles on postcards and stamps!"

Many of Great Britain's early castles were built as defence against the Viking invasions, but these are mostly now in ruins or incorporated into larger structures. The clan wars in Scotland resulted in an incredible number of castles, and some bloodthirsty tales related to them. The standard "thing" when a clan defeated another was to burn down their castle, kill all the men and the younger children, and take most of the women as "slaves".

Another burst of castle-building occurred after the Norman invasion by William the Conqueror in 1066 (Windsor Castle being one of them), and yet another 'burst' in England as a result of the English Civil War. Every European country built castles (including the Alcazar in Segovia, Spain), and North African, Japanese and Chinese fortresses and castles are legendary.

Castles were built on both sides of the English Channel during the Hundred Years War, and during the various conflicts between protestant England and catholic France, following Henry VIII's splitting from Roman Catholicism – he was paranoid about attacks from France, and rightly so!

There are many famous **bridges**, such as the Forth Bridge in Scotland (1883-1890), and the Rialto Bridge in Venice (1588-1591), shown here. Bridges don't only

carry vehicles and trains and pedestrians – they also carry other things, including, on one of Ron's sheets, a **canal** over a river! Some, like the series of spans over the Inland Sea in Japan and the bridges from U.S.A.'s Florida south to Key West, are up to 9 kilometres long !!

- A "Stamp and Coin SUPER Fair" has been advertised by the SCDA for Newcastle Panthers on Sunday 27th June 2010.

VIEWERS' CHOICE COMPETITION – SOMETHING PHILATELIC BEGINNING WITH THE LETTER "S" - 8th April 2010

There were 13 entries in this year's popular choice competition, and not one of them dealt with "Specimen" overprints, or Shades of King George V Penny Reds...

They were ALL very good entries, remarkably so, because while there was an outstanding winner, there were ALSO 7 equal second places and 4 equal third places!

MARK SAXBY - *Ship Mail of Peru* – Mark traced the 'Grace Line', sailing between the U.S. and South America, first carrying guano, then passengers, until their ships were taken over by the U.S. in World War 2, several being sunk. He included a reed-boat on Peru's Lake Titicaca in his display!

GLADYS TYACK – *Seashells* – a long stamp set of sea shells issued by Belize in 2000 were accompanied by shell stamps from the Solomon Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, and Samoa.

BERNARD DOHERTY - *S.A.L. – Overseas Postal Service* – the highlight of the display was a First Day Cover 2nd August 1971 for the inauguration of the 'Surface Air Lifted' parcel post service, which later became 'Economy Air' after S.A.L. ended.

RON DAVIS - *Some Stamps on Soot-Coloured Stamp Sheets* – yes, black pages (!) with stamps of Spanish Sahara, Straits Settlements, Seychelles, Sudan, Samoa, and Senegal.

DON CATTERALL - *Postcards showing STOCKTON* – historic postcards of this Newcastle suburb, one of which showed the wreck of the "Adolphe" on the Stockton breakwater.

The second place getters were :

RON DAVIS - *Sydney Harbour Bridge* – stamps, postmarks, mini- sheets and postcards tracing the Bridge from its opening in 1932 to the Bi-Centenary celebrations in 2000.

JEANETTE SAUL - *Seas around Papua-New Guinea* – Jeanette showed seashells, Creatures of the Sea, fish, coral, sea life, and explorers of the PNG area.

JOHN PUGSLEY - *Stamps of Great Britain Used Abroad* – the GB stamps had been used in Constantinople, Alexandria, Gibraltar, Port Said, Colombo, Malta, and in the Boer War and WW2.

DON RUTHERFORD – *Sweden* – World War 2 mail from Sweden was flown to the U.K. where it was censored and then flown on to the USA by BOAC, piloted by RAF personnel.

JOHN LAVENDER - *N.S.W. Towns beginning with 'S'* – postmarked covers were from Scone, Singleton, Sofala, Stuart Town, Smithfield and St. Leonards.

RUSSELL GODDARD - *The Supply Vessel 'Aurora Australis'* – Russell had Antarctic covers from Davis and Casey Bases, showing stores being off-loaded from the Aurora Australis onto the thick ice and helicoptered into the base. Mawson was more accessible to the ship, with thinner ice.

WARREN OLIVER - *'S' Postmarks of N.S.W.* - scarce, old and now superseded postmarks from Summer Island, Sparkes Creek, Shuttleton, Scone, South Broken Hill, South Singleton, South West Rocks, Stratford, South Woodburn, and Sydney.

And the overall winner :

CAROL DAVIS - *Ships of the Desert*. Carol had gathered together a colourful array of one-humped Arabian Camels on postcards and stamps. She pointed out that 'dromedaries' are special one-humped camels used for riding.

The Arabs get most of their needs from their camels – transport, milk, meat, clothing made from its hair, carpets, ropes, tents from its skin, and dung to burn in their cooking fires.



MAURITANIA
1938



AJMAN, 1972
Camels in Egypt

Thanks go to (a reluctant) **TREVOR DUMBRELL** for convening the competition.

FREE ADVERTISEMENTS !!

May, 2010

For our members : Phone RON DAVIS on 4951 7878 if you have something you want to buy, or swap, or sell.

WANTED:

SANDRA BAKER - phone 4956 4515, issues showing "Pre-history"- early man, fossils, cave paintings, etc. There are several from Bulgaria and South-East Asia that I need.

KEVIN SIMKUS - ph. 4951 1597: Wanted - MORE members to put their names down on the CIRCUIT LISTS to BUY stamps! Just take out the stamps you want from the circuit book, pass it on to the next person, & send the money to me. From 5c up. Only HALF of our members are on the circuit lists – are you one of them??

STEPHEN BURTON, Quality pre-1950 Australian Mint or Used. Will pay cash for better items, or trade. Also buying quality singles and collections world-wide. Phone 4954 4002, or 0432 540 760.

JOHN BASSFORD - phone 4952 5716: Anything from "unusual countries" and "dead countries".

DAVID PICKERING, phone 4953 2735 –Locomotives on stamps & postcards, and ALL Australian 'Specimens' Overprints.

JOHN MOORE, P.O.Box 528, Cardiff; 2285 or telephone 02-4956 8931 wants : Australian Debit Docket that was issued to claim fees on underpaid registered mail .

REX HILL, phone 4957 0176 - pre printed pages for albums, Great Britain from 1840, British Commonwealth, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, early Norfolk Island, early Cocos Island.

BERNARD DOHERTY, phone 4967 5478: " WANTED: Articles and items to do with PARCEL POST - Parcel wrappings with PMG or Australia Post service labels, Priority Paid, Customs outward and inward, insurance labels. Preferred with stamps or counter printed label. Address labels from the major department stores with postage stamps. i.e., anything to do with PARCEL POST. Contact Bernard Doherty, PO Box 18, Waratah, 2298, phone 4967 5478, or email bjdoh@bigpond.net.au . Happy to reimburse.

DON CATTERALL - phone 4943 5639: old postcards, and AUSTRALIAN Revenue and Railway Parcel stamps.

CHRIS ASHHURST-SMITH - phone 4957 0622: N.S.W. POSTMARKS, with Circular Date Stamps; and George V or VI Australian.

FOR SALE:

KEVIN SIMKUS - phone 4951 1597: Stamp hinges \$5 a large packet (1000). Hard to get anywhere else!! Ideal for mounting stamps for sale on circuit book pages. Proceeds to Philatelic Society funds.

STEPHEN BURTON - Australia and World from 1840 to date. Will sell or trade. Visit me at WALLSEND Stamp and Coin Fair on the 3rd Sunday every month. Free valuations. Phone 4954 4002, or 0432 540 760.

AUCTION REPORT, FEBRUARY 2010

The night proved rather unusual in some ways. A larger crowd than normal came along, including a few people from the recent Exhibition patronage. There were 38 bidders and all except 2 took something home with them from the 411 items on offer from our 23 vendors. 163 items went under the hammer and these realised a total of \$1,017. This sale tally amounts to 40% and that is a quite satisfactory result, but the low return reflects the almost total absence of high value sales. In fact only 20 lots sold for over \$10, and only 3 items sold for over \$20. These were 2 Collections comprising Barbados/Bahamas and St. Kitts/St. Lucia that were a bargain at \$30 and \$28, and a batch of NSW Railway Stamps that fetched \$22. Railways and British Commonwealth were as always very popular, but almost the entire spectrum of stamp collecting was up for sale in this auction. Higher value material was there on offer, but on this night there were no takers.

I have excluded from the above two special lots that the Society auctioned off. These were full sets of 2008 and 2004 Stanley Gibbons Catalogues, which sold for \$85 and \$30 respectively. What great bargains! My thanks to all who helped or participated in any way.

Our next auction will be on May 20th. Hope to see you there.

NOTE : To assist with the smooth running of the Auction, would all vendors please get their lot stickers from the Auction Convenor BEFORE the night. If for some reason stickers must be picked up ON the night, please advise the Convenor beforehand, who will have the stickers and documentation ready.

Don Catterall, Operations Convenor.

*** Cleaning the house while you have a growing family is like sweeping the footpath while it is still snowing. (Phyllis Diller)

*** Rain has NEVER been recorded in the ATACAMA DESERT in Chile – an "absolute desert".

*** Single person households are the fastest growing segment of the population and are likely to reach 32% of all households by 2029. *AFI*

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).

"ASPECTS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC"
- display by **JOHN MOORE**, Wednesday 17th FEBRUARY 2010 :



The Political and Social Aspects of East Germany was the title of John Moore's display. The former East Germany, a communist state,

was born out of the carve up of Germany following WWII. Whilst it was originally intended that Germany would remain unified under the allied occupation of France, Britain, Russia and the U.S., differences with the Russians lead to the formation of the German Democratic Republic on 7th October 1949, with unification finally occurring 41 years later on 3rd October 1991. The display commenced with examples of the Directorate of Posts Issues from Mecklenburg, Berlin, Saxony, Thuringia, East Saxony and West Saxony which were issued during 1945 and 1946, followed by the combined allied issues, Russian Zone overprints and then finally from 1949, the German Democratic Republic. Commercially used covers were a feature of the display including examples of slogan cancels, one of which featured the Colorado potato beetle which at the time was devastating the potato crops. For propaganda purposes the western allies got the blame for the beetle! Also included in the display were a complete set of East German banknotes, coins, petrol ration coupons, and personal correspondence regarding the final months prior to the 1990 unification.

**HISTORIC AND INTERESTING POSTCARDS**

- display by **DON CATTERALL**, Wednesday 17th March 2010

Don's postcard display covered four different subjects - **Lighthouses** around the world, **Passenger liners** and ships, **Napoleon Bonaparte**, and the **Battle of Waterloo**. While a lot of interest was shown in the lighthouses and liners, the greatest discussion was about the finely detailed postcards depicting Napoleon's battles, his confinement to the French island of Elba, and his final banishment to St. Helena in the Atlantic Ocean. The famous view of Napoleon standing with his hand stuck into the front of his shirt was included, and, together with several others, the Battle of Wagram fought against a smaller Austrian army under Archduke Charles. Artillery caused huge losses on both sides, but the Austrians retreated and lost the battle and subsequently the campaign. Napoleon survived the slaughter by riding away on his horse, & left his men to battle on!



'Napoleon Victorious!' The Battle of Wagram, outside Vienna, 6 July 1809 - but Napoleon actually was elsewhere at the time!

AUSTRALIAN REGISTERED MAIL - THE STORY CONTINUES -

display by **JOHN MOORE**, Wednesday 21st April 2010

John's display was a study of the postage rates for registered mail. The rates varied depending upon the weight, the route, the destination, and the amount of compensation which could be claimed - a complicated formula indeed!

Postage of 11/11d for a 1-ounce item comprised 5/10d per half ounce for air mail plus 3d registration. From 1913 to 1949 (36 years), the fee for registration was 3d. 1949 it rose to 6d., then in 1952 up to 9d., in 1956 up to 1/3d, and in 1959 up to 2/- ! A rare item was a debit docket, where a postal employee forgot to put the correct postage on a registered item handed over the counter, and was backcharged by the receiving office! Envelopes suspected of containing money were officially registered, and the sender charged. Commonwealth airmail rates were cheaper than foreign airmail rates, irrespective of distance - mail to the New Hebrides was more expensive than to India or Gibraltar! John also had "Found in Drop Box" mail, Free of Postage mail, Late Fee mail, Dead Letter Office mail, and Military Concession mail - all registered !

- RJD -



The Production of Stamps, or "Australia Post and the Great Gravy Train"

Whilst preparing a display for the "100 years of Stamps" Mini-Exhibition, I was confounded by the torrent of issues that have poured our way from Australia Post. I say 'our way' because there is no reason other than to satisfy the cravings of stamp collectors for all these issues to be created.

Hence I quickly prepared this table which is roughly accurate but cannot be perfectly so, as precise dates of issues would take deeper scrutiny. Also no "a" numbers or other variations are included. These are just the general stamp issues from the Australian Colour Catalogue. Listing is to the end of each decade.

By end of	New Stamps	Progressive Total
1919	32	32
1929	72	104
1939	100	204
1949	67	271
1959	91	362
1969	137	499
1979	262	761
1989	475	1236
1999	757	1993

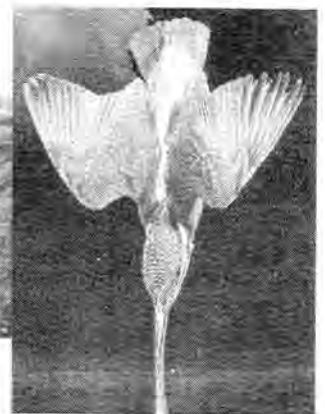
My latest figures :

2006 799 2792 So by today - probably over 3000 total !!

We have created this monster. If we didn't keep buying them they wouldn't keep putting them out! - Don Catterall -



*** PERTH and CAIRNS are Australia's two fastest growing cities, while CANBERRA has the highest average salaries and the longest life expectancies, with Australia's population reaching 22,128,000. Sun Herald.



ON KINGFISHERS AND BULLET TRAINS ...

Traveling at speeds of nearly 300 kilometres an hour, the Japanese bullet train is one of the fastest in the world. It partly owes its success to a small bird - the kingfisher.

In pursuit of a tasty meal, the kingfisher can dive into water with very little splash. That fact intrigued the engineer who directed test runs of the bullet train. He wondered how the kingfisher adapts so quickly from low-resistance air to high-resistance water. Finding the answer was a key to solving a peculiar problem with the bullet train.

"When a train rushes into a narrow tunnel at high speed," engineer Nakatsu explains, "this generates atmospheric pressure waves that gradually grow into waves like tidal waves. These reach the tunnel exit at the speed of sound, generating low-frequency waves that produce a loud boom and aerodynamic vibration so intense that residents 400 metres away have registered complaints."

The decision was made to pattern the front end of the bullet train after the kingfisher's beak. The result? The bullet train now travels 10 percent faster and consumes 15 percent less energy. In addition, the air pressure produced by the train has been reduced by 30%. So, there is no loud boom as the train passes through a tunnel.



1793 "Hikari" Express Train and Motorway

** Afolabi was an African exchange student at Newcastle University. He was in a quandary. Having written home telling his family of his purchase of a new car, he had received a letter from his mother saying that he must kill a chicken and smear its blood on the car, to show that he was not overly proud of it. Afolabi was worried about the response this would bring from his fellow Science students, but he was reluctant to offend his family or abandon his homeland traditions. His solution bore the mark of true diplomacy. He went to the parking area and backed his new car over an egg.

*** Life is like a roll of toilet paper – the closer you get to the end, the faster it goes.