



## 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

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

DATES	DETAILS
Thurs 10 February 2011	Display by Russell Goddard - "FIVE DIFFERENT THEMES"
Wed 16 February 2011	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, - Display by Warren Oliver "THE COLONY OF N.S.W. - EARLY ISSUES"
Sun 20 February 2011	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR, Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
Thursday 24 <del>March</del> <sup>February</sup> 2011	STAMPAUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 4943 5639)
Thurs 10 March 2011	Display by Ron Davis - "AALBORG TO ZANTE - EUROPE'S FORGOTTEN COUNTRIES"
Wednesday 16 March 2011	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue New Lambton East, Display by Bernard Doherty- "BELLS"
Sunday 20 March 2011	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR, Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
Thursday 14 April 2011	POPULAR CHOICE COMPETITION – 6 pages on Something Philatelic Starting with the Letter 'T'
Sunday 17 April 2011	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR, Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
Wednesday 20 April 2011	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, - Display by Russell Goddard "POT POURRI"
Thursday 12 May 2011	Display by Kim Dwyer - "COCOS ISLANDS"
Sunday 15 May 2011	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR, Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
Wednesday 18 May 2011	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, - Display by Don Rutherford "FALKLAND ISLANDS"
Thursday 19 May 2011	STAMPAUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 4943 5639)
Thursday 9 June 2011	MEMBERS' ACTIVITY - Scavenger Hunt (see page 2 of this Newsletter)

### THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE, February 2011

A fact easily missed is that from the first adhesive stamp, the G.B. 1840 Penny Black, was printed on paper with a small crown watermark. Why? To make it more difficult to forge. Howard Bridgman, in his display in November 2010, showed early U.S.A. stamps which had a grille printed on the reverse of the stamp. Other issues had "secret marks". Why? To make it more difficult to forge.

Most collectors are looking for the "real thing", and perhaps a skill we need to develop is the ability to distinguish between what's genuine and what isn't. This is just as true for one who collects stamps or coins, or, of life itself with the interaction of personal relationships – "real" relationships.

It seems that we all wear "coloured glasses" of some sort, tinted by our experiences that sometimes prevent us from making impartial judgments. In searching for the "real thing", are we aware of this and do we work to overcome it??

In a strange sort of way we all have this problem. Each of us have experienced events at different stages of our life that may have made us cautious or fearful. Because we may have been burnt in the past we often lose the ability to trust. Because we have been let down, we may have lost the ability to give. Because of what we have seen or read we may be suspicious of what we don't really know.

Keep on looking for that elusive stamp, cover, postmark or watermark, but at the same time be aware of your own prejudices and open your eyes to justice and love, the qualities that make for a better world.

- Rev. Keith R. Kestel, President -

**Newcastle Philatelic Society Scavenger Hunt, Thursday 9th JUNE 2011**

Displays may consist of only the Australian section, or of both sections.  
The use of covers, strips or multiples is optional.

**AUSTRALIAN SECTION.**

A Stamp depicting :

1. A Frama from Newcastle (A45), Mayfield (A21) or Hamilton (B43)
2. an "Imp".
3. a Koala Bear and a Kangaroo.
4. an Ambulance.
5. an Australian who died aged 52. (info on stamp)
6. "Big Ben".
7. a Splined Gear Shaft.
8. Ghosts.
9. Man ascending from the slime
10. a Man wearing Polka Dot Shorts
11. Two Monkeys
12. Cradle Mountain.
13. a Tent
14. Geese
15. The Name of a Battle in Greece.

**WORLDWIDE SECTION**

16. An Army Tank ;
17. An Aircraft Carrier
18. A Taxi.
19. Amy Johnson
20. A Jigsaw Puzzle or Piece
21. A Woodpecker.
22. A Stag.
23. A Scorpion
24. An Anchor
25. A Hand
26. A Golfer in Action
27. A Glacier
28. A Bilingual Stamp
29. Stamp with no straight sides
30. A Semi-trailer.

**FREE ADVERTISEMENTS !!**

February, 2011

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 China and from the Middle East that I need - Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. I am STILL wanting 'pre-history' stamps from Hungary, Bulgaria, and Roumania.

**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.

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

**DAVID PICKERING**, phone 4953 2735 -Locomotives on stamps & Post Cards, and ALL Australian 'Specimens' Overprints.

**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.

**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.

**HOWARD BRIDGMAN** - phone 4950 2325 : Early U.S.A. covers wanted, pre-1930.

**GREG LAIDLER** - phone 4957 8267 (leave a voice message), or email at glaidler@bigpond.com, or at club meetings - wanted copies of the 1974 PAINTINGS definitive stamps, especially the \$1 and \$2 values. I am researching the location of printing varieties of the \$2 stamp. Some of these stamps have scratches or dots and blobs of various colours. These flaws changed as the printing cylinders of different colours were changed. I would like to purchase or view sheets, panes, blocks, covers and used copies.

**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.

- The hardness of ice is similar to that of concrete.



The Great Wall of China - 2,500 miles long, stretching over more than one-twentieth of the Earth's circumference - was the longest continuous construction project in history. It was built over a period of 1,700 years; enough stone was used to build an eight-foot high wall (2.4 metres) girdling the globe at the equator.

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**THE UNITED STATES, 1847 TO 1930 –****Display by HOWARD BRIDGMAN, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

Howard admitted he had been collecting stamps of the U.S.A. since 1957, and most of the very early stamps in his display had been obtained from his grandparents. Omitting the many varieties of the same stamp – such as the 1-cent Franklin head – his display was a collection of examples of the different kinds of stamps issued, from 1847 to 1930 – airmails, telegraph stamps, special delivery, newspaper stamps, officials, pre-cancels, etc. – 72 pages in all.



Early definitives showed the head and shoulders of presidents, generals, explorers or famous Americans, and this remained the case, on and off, until the 1960's. The commemoratives were different.

One of the highlights of Howard's display was a good example of U.S. No.1, the scarce 5c brown Benjamin Franklin, issued in 1847, pen-cancelled on cover, addressed to his grandmother.

The 1869 definitives showed other than President's heads, and included a postman on a horse, a locomotive, Christopher Columbus, and a paddle steamer the *SS Adriatic*, with and without the grille on the reverse of the stamp. On the 1873 issue, they had "secret marks" on the stamps.

The 1930 "Zeppelin" issues – showing the airship the *Graf Zeppelin* on a Europe-Pan American flight – came out during the Great Depression, so very few were sold and are expensive. Nevertheless, Howard had a Zeppelin cover, with a cachet.

OFFICIAL stamps were issued in different colours for different Departments – for instance, orange for the Department of the Interior, purple for the Justice Department, navy blue for the Navy, and deep brown for the Treasury.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS were first issued in 1870 and discontinued in 1898, for bulk payment for periodicals and newspapers. They were fixed to receipt books, which were retained by the Post Office.

SPECIAL DELIVERY stamps, first issued 1885-1895, paid for immediate delivery between 7 a.m. and midnight at any post office. The first stamps showed a running messenger, but in 1917 changed to a messenger on a bicycle, then in 1922 delivery by motor cycle, and in 1925 delivery by van, but in 1954 back to delivery by hand!

Howard went on to show the PARCEL POST stamps of 1912 - showing the various methods of carrying parcels (all 12 values were in red), an 1887 Letter Sheet, POSTAGE DUES from 1891 to 1893 (they were first issued in 1879), TELEGRAPH STAMPS from 1881 and 1883-1887, and SPECIAL HANDLING stamps from 1925 - 1929.

Perhaps one of the most interesting was an 8c definitive showing George Washington's wife, Martha, 1902-1903 – the first time that a woman is featured on a U.S. stamp. Martha has a town supposedly called after her – Martha's Vineyard – in Massachusetts.

But one which looked like a suspicious "ring-in" was overprinted in three lines SHANGHAI, 60c, CHINA. It turned out to be United States Post Offices in China in 1919! Different!!



\*\*\* WHITEOUT, or liquid paper, has been around since 1951. It was invented by Betty Nesmith Graham, the mother of one of "The Monkees", Mike Nesmith.

\*\*\* How long is a piece of string ?? Cut the ends off, and it's endless.

\*\*\* The digestive juices of crocodiles have so much hydrochloric acid that they have dissolved iron spearheads and 6-inch steel hooks that they have swallowed.



Hochwür

## FROM SARAJEVO TO VERSAILLES -

Display by  
**GREG LAIDLER,**  
9<sup>th</sup> December 2010

The trigger for WORLD WAR I was the assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, and his wife Sophie, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, on 28 June 1914, in the city of Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia. Bosnia-Herzegovina had been annexed by the Austro-Hungarian Empire on 6 October 1908.

A set of three stamps was issued by the Austria-Hungary Military Post on 28 June 1917, on the third anniversary of the assassination. KuK stands for Kaiserlich und Königlich, translated as Imperial and Royal, for the Imperial German and Royal Hungarian components of the Army.



From "The Supreme Headquarters of General Falkenhausen" is a cover postmarked on (Monday) 6 March 1916. It has been prepared and posted by the staff of the Supreme Headquarters of the German General Ludwig van Falkenhausen. General Ludwig van Falkenhausen commanded sections of the German army during the first half of the war, and is regarded as being highly successful during this time. After a defeat in 1917, he became Governor General of Belgium.



The cover has the registration label of the Expeditionary Force Field Post Office of the Supreme Command of General Falkenhausen, number 537. There was a wax seal on the reverse of the cover, with the official seal of the Supreme Headquarters.



The GERMAN ARMISTICE COMMISSION was based in the Belgian city of Spa. The armistice which brought an end to the fighting in World War I was signed at 5 a.m. on Monday 11 November 1918. After the signing the German delegation of 6 officers was escorted back to the German High Command Headquarters in the Belgian town of Spa, close to the German border.

My registered cover, addressed to Leipzig, has the postmark *Deutsches Postamt*, German Post Office, Spa (the location for the German Armistice Commission), with the date 15 February 1919. The bottom line translates as the "Armistice Commission".



The registration label has been *Deutsch Feldpost 722* (German Field Post 722), but the number has been crossed out and the name Spa has been written in.



My postmark from the location of the VERSAILLES PEACE CONFERENCE. The Palace of Versailles was the venue for many of the meetings and plenary sessions that were necessary to formalise the end of World War One. The decisions made included reparations and disarmament, how to meet the many demands for independence, how to break up the territory of the former enemy nations, and agreement on a framework to establish the League of Nations. The



German delegation travelled by train to Versailles, arriving on 29th April 1919. A small group of six delegates were selected to receive a copy of the Peace Treaty on 7 May 1919, in the dining room of the Trianon Palace at Versailles. For the next three weeks the delegates prepared counter proposals to the Allied peace terms. The Allies agreed to so few changes that they were made in red pen to the original documents. Germany was given 5 days (later extended to 7 days) to sign, or the Allies would denounce the armistice, resume the invasion and suspend food shipments. The Palace of Versailles, outside of Paris, was the site for the signing of the TREATY OF VERSAILLES - the formal end to hostilities with Germany. It was signed by leaders of the allied nations (except the United States) and representatives from Germany.

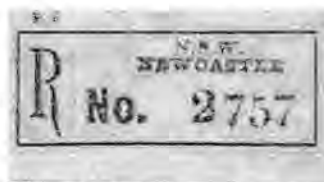
My envelope has been postmarked at the Chateau of Versailles ON THE DAY of the signing of the treaty, (Saturday) 28 June 1919. The postmark translates as CASTLE OF VERSAILLES - CONGRESS OF THE PEACE - 28 JUNE 1919. The treaty was signed in the Hall of Mirrors. The economic blockade of Germany did not end until 12th July 1919, and in the meantime there was widespread starvation and hardship in Germany. Separate treaties were signed with the other defeated nations.



\*\*\* Elections are won by men and women chiefly because most people vote against somebody rather than for somebody.

## MEMBERS' DISPLAYS - SIX PAGES OR ITEMS OF LOCAL PHILATELIC INTEREST : Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011

There were 10 displays on various themes related to the Hunter Region, to Newcastle and its suburbs, and to this Society :



**JOHN HILL** – John displayed a Pot-Pourri of interesting material including replies (addressed to Newcastle) to his letters from the Governments of Fiji and of the Falklands, early Maitland cancels, a Boxer Rebellion cover addressed to Mr. Nickson (of Royal Newcastle Hospital's Nickson Wing fame), but especially an exceedingly rare outer addressed and signed by Governor Lachlan Macquarie (1810-1820).

**BERNARD DOHERTY** – Early Newcastle postmarks (including a unique black 'Postage Paid Newcastle' – they are usually red), early letters, a map of a mail run, and a document tendering to carry mail from Newcastle to Stockton by boat 6 times a week.

**DON RUTHERFORD** – The Coal Industry in Newcastle, shown by local postmarks – the AA Company had at first owned all the coal mines in the inner city of Newcastle, but when its monopoly was surrendered, other coal companies built homes and developed Newcastle's suburbs.



**DON CATTERALL** – Railway Parcel Stamps from local railway stations, including almost a full set of mint Newcastle decimal values bought at the railway station (Don said he was "too stingy" to buy the highest values); Registration Labels from Lower Hunter towns and suburbs; and various Cinderella items unique to Newcastle, including several "Newcastle Show Week" labels.

**GORDON GIBBONS** – Postcards from Chile to Newcastle addresses, two of which were sent to a George West of Waratah by a man on a nitrate ship – coal was used in the nitrate plants in Chile and in their steam ships, hence the continued correspondence and trade both ways.

**WARREN OLIVER** – Postal History, including an 1885 cover with a 1277 numeral cancel to Norway from Winding Creek (renamed Teralba on 1-1-1888), covers dated 1-2-1891 to Sydney from Young Wallsend (renamed Edgeworth), and October 1874 from Anvil Creek (renamed Greta on August 10, 1886), correspondence from Lady Windeyer to her son dated 1851, and other rare items dated 1846, 1857, 1910 and 1919, all sent from post offices which were later closed or changed names.



**RAY LITTLE** - Stamp articles from an 85-years-old copy of "Boys' Weekly", dated Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 1926, and others from the first part of a collection of 88 weekly issues of the magazine, published in Sydney but available in Newcastle, inherited from his grandfather ("it shows that things haven't changed much in 85 years!").

**RON DAVIS** - An 1897 Gibbons Foreign countries catalogue, a 1905 British Empire catalogue (both from our former Newcastle Philatelic Society library), the NPS Rules and Bylaws of 1971, a couple of unusual certificates, and a much-discussed photo taken of the NPS visit to Dubbo Stamp Club in April 1984.



**JOHN MOORE** - Postmarks and numeral cancels, photos and covers and registration labels from the Gloucester district (where John originally came from), including the rare Upper Gloucester and Barrington. Wheat was grown in the district until 'rust' made it impossible. The Scottish immigrants spoke Gaelic there (and taught it in schools) until the 1880's!! There were originally 50 Post Offices and Telegraph Offices in the district, but now there are only 3 left (!), Gloucester, Barrington, and Wards River.



**RON DAVIS** - Various Cinderella items and sheets of stamps produced by the NPS for stamp exhibitions in Newcastle - Norpex 1991, Norpex 1994, the 1997 Centennial Stampshow, and the 2003 Stamp Show, plus several colourful covers from overseas addressed to various NPS members.



Interesting !!



Until 1834, CANTON was the only Chinese port allowing any access to foreigners - men only. The Chinese temporarily cut off all trade with Americans when a girl, from Salem, Massachusetts, disguised herself as a boy and sneaked into the trading offices, only to be found out.

## **OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY, FRIDAY 10th DECEMBER 2010**

**29** people sampled the magnificent array of food at Keith and Pamela Kestel's place. Keith had asked us to bring along an interesting item to talk about, and to mention a musical instrument which we had or had not succeeded in playing ....

ANNA HILL had an ancient piece of amber jewellery, and a pan flute (part of her 'collection' of musical instruments); JOHN HILL had brought along an ocharina (shown), and wore a "Cougar Bait" T-shirt (a 'cougar' is an older woman who chases a young man!); ED BERNARD had some New Zealand stamps with mis-placed perforations; SHIRLEY BERNARD had had her piano lessons in a church hall, after 12 months had reached third grade, and then learnt for 10 years; RAY LITTLE had the minutes of the FIRST meeting of the Newcastle Philatelic Society on May 7<sup>th</sup> 1918, up to the 10<sup>th</sup> A.G.M. on Friday May 4<sup>th</sup> 1928; RON DAVIS's Credential had been signed by the then NSW Premier, prior to his study tour overseas in 1967, and also had brought along a flute; DON CATTERALL intended to learn the piano, and took piano lessons at 2/- a week, but after 5 weeks the piano was sold - "you're wasting our time and yours"; TONY WALKER played in his school band in North Yorkshire, and had been corresponding with someone in Russian and brought along some covers which were 'lost' and later returned; WENDY WALKER was a National Judge in marching girls competitions; MARGARET CATTERALL'S Family History went back to 1650, but her great-great-grandfather's farmer's diary dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 1847 described the work done on the day by the farm labourers, and described his wife as "a straw plaiter"; GORDON GIBBONS described how Wells Fargo operated their own postal service, and produced a pre-stamped envelope "to Mexico, U.S.A. or Europe" dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 1694; BERNARD DOHERTY recalled his pianola playing days, and showed us a canvas label off a mailbag printed "fragile"; JANET DOHERTY showed us her hand-made jewellery, using Swariwski crystals; CAROL DAVIS told us about her djembe playing experience at the Newcastle Conservatorium's 2010 Open Day; and KEITH KESTEL told us about when he was at Theological College and other students put salt in his tea. And THIS year, it didn't pour rain !!



### **STAMP CLUBS in the Hunter Region are :**

**NEWCASTLE** - meets at Mayfield Ex-Services (Diggers) Club, Hanbury Street, Mayfield, second Thursday monthly at 7.30 p.m., AND at Studio 48, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, third Wednesday monthly (except Dec) at 10.00 a.m.  
[www.philas.org.au/newcastle](http://www.philas.org.au/newcastle)

**TORONTO** - meets at Fennell Bay Community Hall, first Wednesday monthly at 7.30 pm. [www.philas.org.au/toronto](http://www.philas.org.au/toronto)

**MORISSET** - meets at Morisset Uniting Church, 4th Saturday monthly (except Dec) at 10.00 a.m. [www.philas.org.au/morisset](http://www.philas.org.au/morisset)

**MAITLAND** - meets at East Maitland Bowling Club, 2nd Mondays monthly (except Jan) at 7.30 pm. [www.philas.org.au/maitland](http://www.philas.org.au/maitland)

**LAKE MACQUARIE** - meets 30 Josephson Street, Swansea, 2nd Saturdays monthly 9 am-2 pm. [www.philas.org.au/lakemacquarie](http://www.philas.org.au/lakemacquarie)

Useful web sites for stamp collectors include:

[www.philas.org.au](http://www.philas.org.au)

[www.apf.org.au](http://www.apf.org.au)

[www.apta.com.au](http://www.apta.com.au)

[www.auspost.com.au](http://www.auspost.com.au)

[www.sydneystampexpo2011.org.au](http://www.sydneystampexpo2011.org.au) (for details of the big stamp show in Sydney in March 2011).

### **Australia Day Festival At Speers Point, Wednesday 26th January 2011**

A temperature of 38 degrees and afternoon thunderstorms were forecast, but even so, Keith Kestel and Ron Davis, with later assistance from Don Catterall, set up a "gazebo" full of displays and handouts amongst the other stalls at Lake Macquarie's Speers Point Park. Quite a few interested people, but just about everyone had a box of stamps that they had inherited or collected "years ago" and wanted to know what to do with them. Perhaps the day's highlight was when the leader of a scout group in Belmont was discussing their badge for stamp collecting. We MAY get someone new along to our meetings ...

### **Christmas Visit to Maitland Stamp Club - Wednesday 8th December 2010**

Several Newcastle Philatelic Society members travelled to East Maitland Bowling Club in December for the Maitland Stamp Club Christmas meeting. As has been the custom, Newcastle Society members provided the displays for the evening. Don Catterall created quite a bit of interest with his Picture Postcard scenes of Singleton, many of the then and now scenes engender much discussion. Gordon Gibbons took along some of his Chilean air mail covers; he spoke of some of the scarce postmarks, and unusual frankings. Don Rutherford took along some George VI, 3d, blue stamps, including the white wattle variety which created discussion as to whether it was the correct Die for the variety. Bernard Doherty had the dates wrong in his diary and when the other Newcastle members arrived to pick him up, wasn't ready, in the rush he forgot his display sheets. As always the party and discussion after the meeting was very enjoyable.

**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).



**“POT POURRI” - display by PAUL THOMAS (SYDNEY),**  
**17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**

A stamp collector for many years, and originally from Broken Hill, Tibooburra, and the Royal Australian Engineers, Paul's display was, INDEED, a Pot Pourri !! He started off with several medical themes – “SILENT KILLERS”, breast cancer, AIDS, and malaria (with a letter card from India, and postcards “spraying DDT” from Jamaica and Nigeria, stamps showing mosquitoes from Pakistan and Guinea, ‘malaria’ stamps from Panama, Tunisia and Nepal, and some U.S.A. chloroquine phosphate tablets included in a packet in the display!). Then came Quills (both left and right-handed), Famous Conductors, the RED CROSS and blood donations, ALCOHOL and alcoholism, the wine industry, Albert Nobel and the NOBEL Peace Prize, The Gay Kingdom of the Coral Sea, Urology, Physiology, Famous Women (including Madame Curie 1867-1934), Famous Men (including Albert Einstein 1879-1955, and Anders Celsius 1701-1744, who invented the Celsius temperature scale – freezing point 0° to boiling point 100° at sea level).



**“GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, TUVALU AND KIRIBATI”**  
**- display by JOHN MOORE, 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2011**

The GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS was established as a British Protectorate in 1892, and later became a Crown Colony in 1916. In 1974, a referendum was held, and the Polynesians of Ellice Islands voted overwhelmingly to separate from the Micronesians on Gilbert Islands, and in 1975 became TUVALU, a separate British dependency, and on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1976 became an independent nation within the British Commonwealth. The remaining Gilbert Islands became part of KIRIBATI (pronounced Keeribahs), a republic, on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1979.

KIRIBATI consists of 33 coral islands and atolls, totalling 886 sq.km., which as well as the 16 former Gilbert Islands also includes Banaba (Ocean Island), the 8 Phoenix Islands, and 8 of the Line Islands (including Kiritimati – Christmas Island – their largest island). The capital is on Tarawa Island, and the population is about 100,000.

TUVALU's population was 12,500, but is now down to 10,000 through emigration to New Zealand, which has agreed to take the population if or when the islands are submerged through rising sea levels. Comprising 9 coral atolls, its area is only 26 sq.km., the capital being Funafuti. They have one naval patrol boat, and trading ships only visit infrequently.

The GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS' first stamp issue was in 1911, and issues mainly showing local scenes, birds, fish, shells, animals and industries continued until 1975. The GILBERT ISLANDS issued stamps from 1976 to 1979, when the name KIRIBATI was adopted, and continued a similar stamp-issuing policy. TUVALU's first stamps were issued in 1976, and unfortunately it tarnished its reputation by being involved in the Leaders of the World issues in the mid-1980's, and has multiple issues for several of its individual islands “in the back of the book”. A huge “Garrett” locomotive on a coral atoll (where there aren't any railway tracks) is quite incongruous. Miniature sheets abound.



• The United States gained control of the Panama Canal because it learned to eradicate a disease. During the construction of the canal, yellow fever was so prevalent that the French builders were to offer extremely high wages to induce men to work there. After spending \$260 million and losing over 20,000 lives, the French gave up the job in 1904 and turned it over to Americans. The U.S. Army physician in charge, William Crawford Gorgas, learning that the disease was passed on by mosquitoes, was able to eradicate yellow fever in Panama within a year

## STAMP DEALERS AND COIN DEALERS IN NEWCASTLE AND LAKE MACQUARIE

**NEWCASTLE COINS AND STAMPS** (Shane MacCulloch) Phone (02) 4926 3357  
281 Hunter Street, NEWCASTLE 2300 (between Darby and Crown Streets)

Email: [sales@newcastlecoins.com.au](mailto:sales@newcastlecoins.com.au) Website: [www.newcastlecoins.com.au](http://www.newcastlecoins.com.au)

*New coins and banknotes, but specialising in stamp accessories, including Gibbons, Renniks and Lighthouse catalogues, albums, album pages, Hagner and double-sided Vario stock sheets and clear display pages. Stamps in stock are mostly Australian, especially decimal issues from 1966 - 1990's, with some overseas.*

**CHRIS SNELLING STAMPS** (Chris Snelling)

P.O.Box 121, KOTARA FAIR 2289 Phone: (02) 4952 8205

Email: [orchstamp@bigpond.net.au](mailto:orchstamp@bigpond.net.au) Website: [www.orchidstamps.com](http://www.orchidstamps.com)

*Specialising in THEMATIC stamp issues - birds, animals, trains, railways, dinosaurs, flowers, planes, etc. - but especially orchids - and used Australian issues.*

**CHARLESTOWN STAMPS** (Matt) - working from home Phone: (02) 4943 8739

*Stamps in stock are mostly Europe, especially Germany and its colonies, but also Italy and its colonies, France and its colonies, Portugal and its colonies, and Russia.*

**PAT BANNON (SWANSEA)** Phone: (02) 4971 3483

See him at the Wallsend Stamp Fair in the Pioneer Hall, corner of Cowper and Low Streets, Wallsend, on the third Sunday of each month, from 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. *Stamps from almost everywhere in stock.*

**JOHN ZMAK** Waratah West 2298 Phone: (02) 4967 5615

**NELSON BAY STAMPS AND COINS,**

72 Salamander Way, SALAMANDER BAY 2317 Phone: (02) 4982 0931

*Good range of stamps and coins and banknotes.*

**G. AND C. QUALITY COINS AND STAMPS**

483 High Street, MAITLAND 2320 Phone: (02) 4936 6322 *Good range of stamps & coins and banknotes.*

### WHAT'S ON ....?

- The "BIG" thing coming up at the end of March is the **SYDNEY STAMP EXPO 2011**, which will be held on ROYAL RANDWICK RACECOURSE, Alison Road, Randwick NSW 2031, from THURSDAY 31<sup>st</sup> March (from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.), FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> April and SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> April (from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.), and SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> April (from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Admission is \$5 per person, children under 14 and school children FREE, and \$10 for a season ticket, valid for all 4 days. No concessions. There is FREE parking at the venue within the grounds, BUT only 10 minutes from the city, it is well served by public transport. Use Gates Nos. 1 and 2. The OFFICIAL OPENING will be by Her Excellency Ms. Quentin Bryce AC at 11 a.m. on the Thursday. Club meetings already scheduled include Thurs. 31<sup>st</sup> March, 7 p.m. at Philas House, 17 Brisbane Street, Darlinghurst, Level 1 - Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria (but all welcome) - Mozambique + display by the Australian States Study Circle; SAT. 2<sup>nd</sup> April, within the Exhibition building: 11.30 a.m. to 1p.m. - NAPE (International Association of Philatelic Exhibitors); 1pm to 2pm - Perfin Club of Australia and N.Z.; 2pm to 3pm - Australian Cover Society Inc.; 3pm to 4pm - Malaya Study Group; Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1pm to 2.30pm - Postal Stationery Society of Australia. There MAY be others. Keep up to date with [www.sydneystampexpo2011.org.au/events](http://www.sydneystampexpo2011.org.au/events).
- AND don't forget to participate in our SCAVENGER HUNT at our meeting in June 2011 - details on page 2 of this Newsletter.



"What's amazing is no two cats or dogs are alike!"



Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes. (Oscar Wilde).

### Today's fact

Whalers believed right whales were the "right" ones to hunt, hence the name.