



**Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter
VIEWS FROM NOBBY'S**

Newcastle Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 239C, NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

AUGUST, 2008 : Newsletter No. 146 : **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.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME.

DATES	DETAILS
Thurs. 14 August 2008	ANNUAL COMPETITION , and A.G.M., and Presentation of AWARDS Night .
Sun. 17 August 2008	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
Wed. 20 August 2008	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East. Display by Ron Davis - "SOME HARDLY-EVER-HEARD-OF-COUNTRIES"
Thurs. 11 Sept. 2008	"ELECTORAL COMMISSION MAIL" – Display by Hans Karman, Canberra
Wed. 17 Sept. 2008	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East. Display by Russell Goddard – "THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY".
Sun. 21 Sept. 2008	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
Thurs. 9 October '08	"SIERRA LEONE QEII 1953-1964" – Display by Geoff Kellow, Sydney
Wed. 15 October '08	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East. Display by John Hill - "400 YEARS OF POSTAL INNOVATIONS, FROM THE 16 TH CENTURY ONWARDS".
Sun. 19 October '08	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
Thurs. 23 October 08	STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)
Thurs 13 Nov. 2008	"ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE " – Display by Ed Wolf, Sydney.
Sun. 16 Nov. 2008	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
Wed. 19 November 08	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East. Display by Anna Hill - "MORE DESIGN ERRORS ON STAMPS"
Monday 8 December	Visit to Maitland Stamp Club , East Maitland (details Bernard Doherty 4967 5478)
Thurs 11 December 08	"N.S.W. PERFINs" – Display by Mark Saxby
Sunday 21 December	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
December 2008	NO Newcastle Daytime Meeting.

AUCTION REPORT MAY 2008

Another good night, both for buyers and sellers. Almost half of the lots offered for sale found a purchaser, and this kept the recorders and bucket boys very busy.

In all 166 lots were sold, and the 22 vendors all went home with a smile. Total sales realised \$1,123 and this was despite a paucity of high value items. Highest prices of the night were paid for the Victorian Charity Set and the lower value Boer War Stamp from the Colonial period. These brought \$75 and \$50 respectively.

All sorts of material was up for sale and the variety of items is quite a feature of our auctions. As usual there was lots of interest in postcards and Cinderellas as well as the traditional forms of philately.

The message is that if you want to sell something, there is bound to be someone at our auction who will want to buy it. Decimal FDC sadly being the rare exception.

Don't miss out on our next Auction - it will be held on 23rd October and not in the usual September slot.
Don Catterall, Auction Convener.

The President's Report 2007-2008

Thanks to **all** the members of the Committee who have been active in ensuring the smooth running of the Society. It is a pleasure to work with the Committee in a professional and good-humoured atmosphere.

Just picking out a few for mention who have been especially helpful to me -

Carol Davis made my introduction to the President's role very easy by providing me with written details on how to run Committee and General meetings, and also stood in for me during my first absence; and Trevor Dumbrell, and Keith Kestel who stood in for me during a second absence.

Additionally I must commend highly John Moore's superlative contribution as Secretary and acting Librarian. Ron Davis has been hugely industrious as Newsletter Editor and running the Day Time meetings, and of course Bernie Doherty who has stood in for John and others whenever necessary.

We have sadly lost a few members during the year, but happily enrolled a few more, so our numbers remain approximately the same.

In the last twelve months the variety of subject matter displayed at our General Meetings has been considerable, including displays by two visitors, Hans Karman and Paul Storm. I was particularly pleased to see displays by some of our members who had not displayed anything in my time at the Club - namely Anna Hill, Howard Bridgman and Gordon Gibbons. I hope this trend continues with more members offering to show off their collections.

The Day Time Meetings also continue to attract interesting displays. These meetings at Sandra Baker's gallery are an important part of the Society, open to all members, but especially for those who cannot get to the evening General meetings.

Our auctions, led by the hard-working Don Catterall, held three times a year, continue to be very popular. Don's other involvement of running the 'Swap and Sale Night' and supplying the light suppers at the end of our General Meetings is also highly appreciated.

The 'Exchange Branch' led by Kevin Simkus still has a following, and you are encouraged to support this activity by buying from the Exchange sheets and also selling your surplus material through this avenue.

Steve Morris must be congratulated for his on-going encouragement of Juniors Activity.

Our Society achieved a creditable Second place at last year's Northern Beaches Expo, and have been invited to participate again this year. So we are hoping that the top four winners in our Annual Competition will allow us to enter their exhibits in the name of the Society this year. It's a good format. We cannot guarantee that judging by our three judges made up from members of your Committee will coincide with the judging by State level judges at Manly, but nothing ventured, nothing gained!

Our members achieved some success at other exhibitions. The Secretary's report contains more detail.

The financial wellbeing of the Society continues to be ably looked after by our Treasurer, Don Rutherford. However, at a recent General Meeting it was approved that Membership fees need to be increased by \$3 for the coming year. We consider that this extra \$0.25 per month is good value for a Society such as ours!

To the future.

As well as the ongoing activities we currently enjoy, a number of 'Challenges' have been proposed.

- The challenge 'To collect a single year of Australian stamps' has already started with 16 participants.
- A 'Scavenger Hunt' is being developed.
- A 'Postmarks (on cover or stamps) with town names starting with X, Y and Z' is another possibility.

In closing, I would like to thank all members for the support you have shown me in my first year as President, and encourage you all to participate in our current and future activities.

- John Pugsley, President -

** ST. CHRISTOPHER (or St. Kitts) AND NEVIS - British islands in the Leeward group in the West Indies - issued a stamp in 1902 showing the explorer Christopher Columbus looking through a telescope in 1492, 117 years before a telescope was invented.

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT - 14TH AUGUST, 2008

During the 2007/8 year a number of long-term members passed away, plus a review of the membership list resulted in a number of unfinancial members being removed. On a positive note, six new members were recruited, leaving **118 members** on the books.

Attendance at monthly meetings has averaged 25.4, this being down on the previous year. **Sale nights** continue to be well supported with approximately 50 people in attendance at each sale. Sales in dollar terms and the percentage of items sold have been maintained at a high level. The annual swap and sale night was also well attended. Special thanks go to Don Catterall and his helpers that make these nights such a success.

Due to the efforts of Ron Davis, the **Day-time meetings** continue to be well supported with a wide range of material displayed. Thanks are extended to Sandra Baker for hosting these meetings at her Art Studio in New Lambton.

The **2007 Christmas party** was held at Don and Margaret Catterall's residence with those present having a most enjoyable evening.

The **Newsletter** produced by Ron Davis continues as an important means of communication to Society members. During the year we were no longer able to have the Newsletter printed through our usual sources, meaning that it now is printed at a cost to the Society. Thanks go to Ron for his efforts in the quality of articles, and the timely manner in which the Newsletter is produced.

An important link in promoting any organization is publicizing its activities. As **Publicity Officer**, Gordon Shearer continues to ensure as much publicity as possible finds its way into the local press and electronic media.

The **Junior Activities Club** meets at the Wallsend Pioneer's Hall with limited participation. The Newlake group continues to meet with keen interest and support from a number of juniors and the organisers. Stephen Morris also has a group of interested school children involved.

The cataloguing and dispersal of **Library items** continues. Approximately 300 items have been distributed to Philas and the Canberra Philatelic Society libraries, with many more items to be collected & catalogued for later distribution.

During the year a number of members acted as judges, volunteers, as well exhibiting in various **exhibitions**. The NPS fielded a team entry from John Hill, Don Catterall, Tony Walker, Bernard Doherty and John Lavender at NBE07 which gained third place. Other exhibitions where members exhibited included Wodonga 2007, a full National One Frame Exhibition, and Canberra 2008 Half National.

'The **Doron Trophy**' was again keenly contested with 7 entries from Newcastle Philatelic Society members being eligible :

Bernard Doherty - <i>Bells</i>	Anna Hill - <i>Design Errors</i>
Howard Brigman - <i>Ryukyus Islands</i>	Ron Davis - <i>Cruising around the Caribbean</i>
John Pugsley - <i>Queensland</i>	Don Catterall - <i>Military Postcards</i>
Gordon Gibbons - <i>Chile</i> . Gordon was voted the Winner of the Doron Trophy for 2007-8.	

The **Popular Choice Competition** in April was on the topic of "Something Philatelic Starting with the Letter 'Q'", with 6 entries. The winning entry was submitted by Carol Davis, titled "*Quetzals*".

Nine entries were received in the **2008 Annual Competition**, all being in the Experienced Section:

Warren Oliver - <i>New South Wales - "The Sydney Views"</i> - Ruby Award, and Winner
John Moore - <i>Lord Howe Island Postal Cancels 1900-2000</i> - Ruby award
Kevin Dwyer - <i>F.D.C.'s of the AAT 1954-73</i> - Ruby award
Kim Dwyer - <i>Battle of HMAS Sydney v SMS Emden, 9th November 1914, Cocos Island, Indian Ocean</i> - Emerald award
Gordon Gibbons - <i>Chile - The Wartime Censor</i> - Emerald award
Don Rutherford - <i>King Gustaf V Profile to the Left</i> - Sapphire award
Ron Davis - <i>Censored Letters from the Forces WWI & II</i> - Sapphire award
Carol Davis - <i>Ancient Egypt</i> - Sapphire award
Russell Goddard - <i>Cricket in Australia - The Sir Donald Bradman Collection</i> - Topaz award.

Personal commitments prevented me from attending a considerable number of meetings throughout the year. **Thanks** are extended to Bernard Doherty and Kevin Simkus for filling in for me.

- John Moore, Secretary -

● Mail Redistribution Centre, Waterloo NSW 2017

The DEAD LETTER OFFICE has a new name - the MAIL REDISTRIBUTION CENTRE. The Sydney office is located at 810-822 Elizabeth Street, Waterloo, NSW 2017. Special stationery that can carry a DL size envelope is in use.

***** "CROWN COLONIES AND THE CROWN AGENTS" *****

- the display by PAUL STORM, from SYDNEY, 8th May 2008

Paul started off his display by explaining that the 'CROWN AGENTS' was a common abbreviation for the "Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations".

The Crown Agents was founded in 1833 when the United Kingdom Government appointed two joint agents-general to conduct agency duties for 13 Crown colonies, which previously employed separate agents. Other Crown colonies were added and the business gradually expanded to include dependencies, and later it acted for independent governments and public bodies overseas. The organisation was called the "Crown Agents for the Colonies" from 1863 to 1952.

Today the Crown Agents acts for more than 250 overseas principals. These include governments of Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries, the United Nations, local authorities, banks, utilities and similar public bodies. The organisation employs more than 1,700 people and permanent offices have been established in various parts of the world. The Crown Agents is not only involved with postage stamps, but is equipped to supply stores, invest funds, administer pension schemes, arrange loans, provide credit finance, recruit staff and arrange salaries and travel for officers on leave or on special courses.

The Crown Agents' association with postage stamps began in 1848 when a contract to print the 'Britannia' series for Mauritius was arranged with Perkins Bacon.

The Crown Agents was arranging for the design and printing of many colonial stamps by the 1860's. Contracts were negotiated with the early stamp-printing firms, Perkins Bacon and De La Rue, on behalf of their principals. The first watermarks incorporating the letters CA were introduced 20 years later to prevent forgery of stamps. Single CA, Multiple CA, Script CA and Block CA watermarks followed and collectors regarded them as 'hall marks' of quality.

The Crown Agents has been involved in stamp production for over 120 years, but the organisation's direct involvement with philatelic supply dates only from 1906. The intensity of interest in 'British Colonials' dictated that stamps should be distributed direct to dealers, rather than dealers having to obtain their supplies direct from the country concerned.

The Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, part of the Security Printing Division, was formed in 1944 to provide dealers with a quick and efficient service. Initially stamps were made available only to dealers in the United Kingdom because of wartime restriction.

Some limitations were withdrawn in 1950, and this enabled the North American trade to obtain supplies from the bureau. A world-wide sales service was established in 1960 so that philatelic dealers could order their supplies direct from the Crown Agents headquarters.

The Crown Agents carried out the instructions of postal authorities regarding the issues and their release, and doesn't itself decide what issues it should produce. The Crown Agents does however, conduct research into suitable anniversaries and connections between current events and territories whose stamps it handles.

When ordering new stamps, the Crown Agents commissions a free-lance stamp designer. Amendments are often made to his 'rough' designs before he is asked to produce finished artwork. At the finished artwork stage, selected security printers are asked to quote a price and delivery period for the stamps' production. The contract goes to the firm whose offer is most favourable in price and delivery.

In accordance with UPU regulations, copies of all stamps printed on behalf of overseas governments are sent to UPU headquarters in Switzerland. They are then distributed to other member countries for international recognition.

When virtually all the Crown Agents stamp-issuing countries were colonies, the Colonial Office carefully prescribed the number of annual stamp issues, and their contents, for postal necessity rather than for collectors' items. The end of World War 2 brought political changes, printing technique improvements and an upsurge of interest in stamp collecting. Countries became increasingly aware of the publicity and revenue obtainable from selling stamps to collectors.

Paul's display mostly included the Caribbean countries and other current British overseas territories – Anguilla, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn Islands, Saint Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands. The quality of these issues was commented on by many of the members present at the meeting.

• **An Elite Motor Cycle Club** : In recent times when advertising for delivery staff, Australia Post has pointed out that when working for them, Posties ride a purpose-built motorbike. The Honda 110cc step through is made primarily for Australia Post. In 2006 the safe working limit for the bike was 130 kg's comprised of 40 kg's of mail carried in saddle bags and a rider of 90 kg's. Recently after consultations with Honda, the rider weight limit has been increased to 105kgs without any significant effect on stability, handling or safety. The increase in rider weight has meant that the carrying capacity has been revised to 25 kg's. Australia Post no longer requires full licence riders, and will recruit 'P' plate riders.

CHILE - A Selection of Postal History.

- The display by GORDON GIBBONS, 12th June 2008

"My display is divided into two distinct but complementary sections," Gordon said, "A. Airmails 1927 to about 1950, and B. Picture Postcards as postal history. Note that I am neither an airmail collector, nor a postcard collector. The organisation of the collection is my personal choice, and not in accordance with any rules which might apply to these classes."

"The POST CARDS : These have been collected primarily for the postal markings, destinations and postal rates: and are presented in postmark date order - the pictures on the postcards are a bonus. The AIRMAILS are primarily postal history - postmarks, postal rates etc. Many of the items are commercial covers and the only "restoration" has been to clean off any surface dust.

"You may ask : "Why are there so many stamps on the covers"?"

An explanation of the postal rates: The Chilean postal charges are based on an additive system, with four sets of rates and three different weight steps. As an example : A letter to EUROPE from say the city of Concepcion in the south: First the surface rate to Santiago, then the UPU rate to Europe (Correos Stamps, 20g steps). Second, Internal Airmail (LAN stamps, 10g steps). Third, Foreign air mail (Correos Aereo, 5g steps). Add to this the frequent shortages of high value stamps and the results are colourful, if confusing, envelopes. Mail to the Americas was not covered by UPU rates, but by those of the Union Postal Americas y Espana (UPAE). This started life as Union de los Correos Sud Americanos in 1911, but has changed its name a number of times.

One of the several fascinating items in Gordon's display was a 1944 Cover from Valparaiso, Chile to the USA with an "Examined by Civil Censor 7086" label, postmarked Valparaiso 19 Oct 44. The cover was once part of a Gold Medal collection of Censored covers.

Jeroa & Hormann were exporters of food & D.C. Andrews & Co were importers. The Chile company was known to supply German Submarines with long lasting food stuffs. Why it sent a letter of recommendation in German is anyone's guess. The business proposal was suspended until 1948 when the two companies received permission to again do business. Unusual for a chain of manuscript comments to appear on Civil Censored letters and passed probably because of the manuscript comments :



NOTATION BY CENSOR :

"Letters in German & Spanish sent for better translation. Company had business with German company that appears as a letter of recommendation & now looks to Andrews & Co. as a substitute.

(Signed) John Carter, Civil Censor. (Sorry about the ink smudge)."

ADDED IN RED INK BY ANOTHER HAND : "Send to civil censor for comment".

COMMENT IN PENCIL :

"Business proposal not approved. Write to Andrews & Co. to reply likewise".

Senior Customs Censor (signed) John Carr. LETTER RESEALED BY CENSOR TAPE "EXAMINED BY 7086"

NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY Inc. EXCHANGE BRANCH
STATEMENT of INCOME and EXPENDITURE
NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK
1st July 2007 to 30th June 2008

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Balance at Bank 01/07/2007	2085.58	Payments to Vendors	1004.50
Sales from Books and Late Fees	1407.95	P.O.Box	70.00
Interest	.09	Insurance	91.42
		Balance at Bank 30/06/08	<u>2327.70</u>
	<u>\$3493.62</u>		<u>\$3493.62</u>

STATEMENT of INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

National Australia Bank Account No 62-120-8541, 12 months term	
Balance at 23/02/2008	3128.20
Interest	<u>31.29</u>
Balance re-invested	<u>\$3159.49</u>

The Books of the Exchange Branch have been audited and found to be correct. J. F. Hill Hon Auditor 30/07/2008

In submitting this report we take the opportunity to thank all those Members who by their cooperation have helped to make our task a little easier.

It is **disappointing** that more Members are **not** taking the opportunity to use the Exchange Branch to buy and/or sell.
 - Kevin Simkus, Exchange Branch Convenor (phone 4951 1597) -

THE SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS

Since my May "Snippets", time has seemed to fly faster than ever, with the past three months or so being somewhat of a blur time-wise. During this time I spent an enjoyable six weeks traveling around a number of countries in Western Europe, with a two day stopover in Thailand on my way home. One of the highlights for me was a visit to the Western Front WWI battle fields in Northern France and Southern Belgium. Sadly I have two great uncles buried there as well as a number of other relatives, some of which have no known grave. Fortunately I was able to pay my respects to all by visiting a number of war cemeteries, and the VC Corner memorial where the names of those that have no known graves are commemorated.

A number of you have asked if I managed to visit any stamp shops whilst overseas, and I know I have surprised some by my response when I have said the nearest I got to stamps was to purchase some for mailing postcards back home. Time constraints simply did not permit the inclusion of stamp shops in my itinerary, plus when I was in London it was a holiday long weekend. However, all was not lost on the philatelic front, as unknown to me at the time, the Albert (France) Post Office was using a special pictorial cancel commemorating WWI, which included Barbed Wire in the design. Some of you are aware I collect Barb Wire related material, and thanks to a relative who I sent the card to, it is now another addition to my collection.

By the time you read these Snippets we will have had our 2008 Annual General Meeting with a new program for the ensuing 12 months. The program contains an excellent range of exhibits with a number of people from outside the Society displaying.

In closing, I would like to publicly thank Bernard Doherty for his assistance in acting as Secretary whilst I was away and on a number of other occasions over the past few months.

- John Moore, Secretary -

- **Loss of Express Post mail – 9th April 2008** : Shortly after leaving Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport at Mascot at 11:20pm on Wednesday 9 April 2008, an aircraft carrying express post mail for Queensland crashed into the sea off Bundeeena in the Royal National Park. The aircraft was a 19 seat Metro 23 owned and operated by Airtex Aviation. The aircraft was carrying about 30% of Express Post mail for delivery in Queensland on Thursday, 10 April. This was the second of two consignments of Express Post mail for Queensland that evening; the first arrived safely. News reports on the morning of 10 April mentioned an oil slick and debris, including mail.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF QUEENSLAND 1854 to 1911a display by JOHN PUGSLEY, 10th July 2008 -

John's display showed postage stamps used within Queensland between 1 MAY 1854 and 1911.

The area which later became Queensland was previously part of New South Wales (NSW) known as the Moreton Bay District, where, on 1/5/1854, it became compulsory for the use of NSW stamps. Queensland was proclaimed a separate colony on 10 December 1859, but continued to use NSW issued stamps until 1 November 1860. *A few examples from the scarce Moreton Bay District period were included in John's display.*



On 1 February 1860, the Queensland government initiated the production of their own stamps, through their agents in London 'Messrs Mangles & Co', with 'Perkins Bacon & Co'. The required design was to be based upon the 6d. Tasmanian stamp, perforated as done in England. They were to be watermarked (not special), and gummed, for the values 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1/-, and a special 'Registered' stamp, colours to match those used in England. Instructions to quantities required and the sequence of delivery to Queensland were given. In the event, 'Perkins Bacon & Co, used the design of the Tasmanian 1d. stamp as the basis of the Queensland issues. *This 'Chalon Head of Queen Victoria' design was in use exclusively until 1879.*



Due to the urgency with which delivery was required, the first two deliveries included stamps which were unable to be perforated, as well as perforated stamps. *These are known as the 1860/61 London printings.*



In late 1861 Perkins Bacon & Co were requested to deliver to the recently established Government Printing Office the Dies and Plates to enable them to continue printing their stamps in Queensland. *From 1862 until 1903 all stamp printing was undertaken in Brisbane.*



Several different designs and values of stamps were gradually implemented between 1879 and 1911. *For a short time in 1880, the public were allowed to use Revenue stamps for Postal use.*

On 1 March 1901, control of the postal services was passed to the federal administration of the newly formed Commonwealth of Australia, but Queensland continued to use its own stamp issues until 1911. *The first 'Commonwealth of Australia' stamps were issued for Queensland in 1903.*



As from 13 October 1910, the issues of all the other Australian states became valid for use within Queensland and throughout Australia.

Features of John's display were that all of the different postage stamp designs were shown, all of the different watermarks were shown, and examples of the majority of the different types of perforation employed were included. An unusual feature, commented upon by several members was that unused stamps, if they were on the same page as used stamps, were bordered in GREEN.

For those of you who want to follow up more on Queensland stamps, John said that he used as references : "The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards and Telegraph Forms of Queensland" by A.F.Basset Hull, "Billig's Philatelic Handbook - Volume 41 - The Empire in Australasia", and the "Empire Stamp Catalogue 1840-1936 - Volume 2 : Asia, Australasia and the Pacific" by Stanley Gibbons. JP/RD.



- **Outback Mail Run** : The *Sun-Herald* Travel section recently contained a story on the tourist potential of outback mail runs. John Rowe and his family operate one such run out of Coober Pedy in South Australia. The run is 644 kilometres in length and occurs twice a week. John and his wife and son take turns at taking the truck around. Mail stops include Mount Barry Station, Oodnadatta and William Creek.

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 RESTLESS EARTH – the display by Carol Davis, 21st May 2008

“Like the Earth’s formations,” Carol said at the beginning, “this display has been growing steadily over a number of years.” A number of forces, some powerful and some gentle, are constantly changing the face of the Earth. I have included postcards and stamps of **VOLCANOES** and earthquakes, which play a dramatic part in this perpetual change. Water trapped in the ground near volcanoes is forced out by steam to form **GEYSERS**, or flows out as **HOT SPRINGS** **IGNEOUS ROCKS** are formed from magma which has cooled and hardened, and lots of valuable **METALS, MINERALS** and **GEMSTONES** are found in veins in these rocks - **THE EARTH'S TREASURES**”



“**GLACIERS**, sea waves, rain and wind all wear away the land, and **STALACTITES** and **STALAGMITES** form gradually through water erosion in limestone **CAVES** **LAVA TUBES, GROTTOES,** and **LAND BRIDGES** form. **FOSSILS** are exposed by wind or water erosion, and **CORAL** and **CORAL ATOLLS** begin to grow on the underwater slopes of a sinking volcano under one of our oceans”

“I discovered that the reference material that you can find can be very interesting, such as :

“The now famous **MARGARET RIVER Caves**, in Western Australia were discovered by Edward Dawson in 1894. In 1911, Dame Nellie Melba demanded to give a concert in the acoustically marvellous natural amphitheatre – the Amphitheatre Cave. It was a Saturday night. After a tumultuous reception she found that the hired help had gone home to bed. Her piano, transported from Perth in silken bandages, had to spend the weekend under the cold stare of stone formations formed over thousands of years, drop by drop, in the sultry sulphurous atmosphere of the caves. On Monday two expert lifters gingerly began their ascent with the treasured instrument. It fell slowly into separate chunks. The corrosive damp had decomposed the glue. It was irreparable.”

And another : “**Fingal’s Cave** on the British offshore island of Staffa is lined with vertical columns of igneous basalt, and waves pounding into the cave make sounds like a theatre organ. The composer Mendelssohn was so impressed with these sounds that he was inspired to write his famous “**Fingal’s Overture**”.



◆ **The Flying Postman** : Each Saturday Dave Funnell flies a 10,000 kilometre loop north east of Broken Hill. There are 34 take-off and landings for the Piper Cherokee of Wattenhall Air Services. The service starts at 6am and returns to Broken Hill around 3pm - nine hours duration. Most of the landing strips are dirt runways. Some of the places on the route are: Mawarra, Wilcannia, Moona Vale, Waverley Downs, Bindarra and White Cliffs.

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).

"COCONUTS – THE PALM OF LIFE" – the display by JOHN MOORE on 18th JUNE 2008

John has many philatelic and other collections, but 'coconuts' have been an interest of his for many years. The Coconut is an amazing tree, producing food, building materials and clothing for many Pacific and Indian Ocean countries, and the milk from immature coconuts even being used for sterile intravenous injections during World War 2, when other supplies ran low. In John's display, we saw coconuts on stamps of a very diverse number of countries, on postcards, on covers, in postmarks, on coats of arms, in the background of many designs and as a main feature of many others. "Don't mix them up with OIL palms and DATE palms, like you find in Africa and the Middle East", John commented. The 'meat' inside the coconut is dried to produce the commercially valuable copra, which yields an oil used in cooking and in the manufacture of soaps and candles. This meat, either raw or prepared, is an important food in the Tropics. The terminal bud, known as palm cabbage, is considered a delicacy, and the central part of the young stem is also succulent and edible. The sap, or toddy, is a favourite drink, either in the natural state or after fermentation, which takes place in a few hours. Palm wine, or arrack, is made by distillation of fermented sap. The palm's roots have narcotic properties, and are sometimes chewed. Dried leaves from the palm are used for thatch, and by plaiting the leaflets, mats, screens and baskets are made, while coir, the fibre of the nut's husk, is used to make rope. "The Palm of Life" indeed !!



"SENEGAL" – the display by BERNARD DOHERTY on 16th JULY 2008



General Faïdherbe

Bernie started collecting 'SENEGAL' for a Challenge – a display of something which he had never collected before. He bought someone's collection, and continued from there. The Republic of Senegal is located in Western Africa on the Atlantic coast, and is a bit smaller than Victoria, but with almost half of Australia's population. France administered the area as a Protectorate from the 19th Century until 1920, when it became a colony. Self-government came in 1958 as a republic within the French community. Stamps were first issued in 1887 and continued in the traditional French colonial pattern, but from 1944 to 1958, stamps of French West Africa were used. In 1906, General Faïdherbe, the Governor of Senegal in the middle of the 19th Century, was shown on the low stamp values, while Dr. Balay was shown on the high values, against a background of palm trees. In 1935, a series showing the Faïdherbe Bridge in the capital, Dakar, together with a camel caravan was issued, followed by a topless native girl between 1938 and 1940. During the initial stages of World War 2, Senegal was under Vichy administration and several sets corresponding to the Vichy colonial types were issued. Senegal hasn't issued a standard definitive series, but instead it has issued long thematic sets, released at regular intervals. As well as the stamps, all beautifully engraved in the typical French manner, Bernie's display included covers, postal cards and postal stationery. Very interesting.

SWAP & SALE NIGHT 2008.

Held on 19th June, this annual event once again attracted a fair number of members as well as the odd visitor. Well over 30 attended, and 12 members had tables with all sorts of items for sale. There was something there to interest everyone and there were quite a few bargains around, particularly amongst the John Fordham estate material.

The social side of our Society was also very evident with everyone having a good chat and enjoying their philately together.

My thanks to everyone who participated.

Don Catterall, Convener



ERROR - THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STAMP

The first Christmas stamp was issued, apparently unintentionally, by Canada in 1898. When the Canadian letter rate to Empire countries was reduced from 3c to 2c in December 1898, the Postmaster General, William Mulock, designed a stamp to commemorate the occasion. The stamp showed a Mercator map projection of the world, with the British Empire prominently in red and included the caption XMAS 1898.

Beneath this were the words **WE HOLD A VASTER EMPIRE THAN HAS BEEN**. This was, in fact, somewhat premature, because the *whole* of Southern Africa was shown in red. It was to be another four years before the whole of South Africa became a part of the Empire!!

FREE ADVERTISEMENTS !!

August, 2008

Below are our member's advertisements included FREE in the Newsletter. Perhaps YOU might, in looking through your "stuff" for an item advertised here, rediscover marvellous things stashed away and forgotten!!

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

WANTED:

JEANETTE SAUL, phone 4980 1567 - WANTED : postcards of HOT AIR BALLOONS.

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.

SANDRA BAKER - phone 4956 4515 - Indonesian and other issues showing "Pre-history" - early man, fossils, cave paintings, Gondwanaland, etc.

BERNARD DOHERTY - phone 4967 5478 : ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 1991 Christmas Issue; GABON 1976 Christmas Circumcision Festival (Bernie needs these for his "Bells" exhibit).

GLADYS TYACK - phone 4987 5996 :: Stamps Want List -

AUSTRALIA - 1972, 35c Christmas issue "Light of the World", Used.

NEW ZEALAND - 1998 40c Brown Kiwi Peel-&Stick (Mint or used); 1998 80c Falcon (ordinary), M or U;

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - 1992 - Flowering Trees - 90t Acacia;

2000 - Sea Shells - 65t Cassis Cornuya; 2004 - Sea Shells - 70t Conus; 2.70 Lambis; 4.60 Conus;

2005 - Coastal Birds - 5t Little Egret; 75t White-faced Heron; 75t Nankeen Night Heron.

JOHN MOORE, P.O.Box 528, Cardiff, 2285 or telephone 02-49568931 wants :

N.S.W. Railway Parcel stamps from Ward's River, Craven, Stratford and Gloucester;

A commercially used cover from Easter Island (Chile);

Australian Debit Docket that was issued to claim fees on underpaid registered mail (HARD TO GET!).

JOHN BASSFORD - phone 4952 5716 : Baghdad 1917 (British Occupation of Iraq), GALAPAGOS Islands, KIONGA 1916, MOSUL 1918-23, Epirus 1914-15, Mongtseu, ICARIA 1912-13, and THRACE 1913 : more or less anything! (John collects "unusual countries").

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

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

KEVIN SIMKUS - phone 4951 1597 : WANTED - more members to put their names down on the circuit lists to BUY stamps - less than half of our members are participating !

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/Coin Fair 3rd Sunday every month. Free valuations. Phone 4954 4002, or 0432 540 760.

A CHALLENGE !

This year, a challenge has been offered to our members - to collect ALL the issues from a single year, USED. They may be just single stamps, or multiples, or on piece, or maximum cards, or on cover, or whatever. Some of the years have been excluded, because of the excessive number of stamps issued that year. Several years (blank on the list below) are still waiting for someone to take up that challenge. Contact Bernard Doherty for details and registering for your favourite year (phone 4967 5478). For Thurs 8th January next year (2009), in conjunction with the Other Hobbies Night...

ONE YEAR USED-STAMP-CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS

1979 _____	1989 Don Catterall	1999 Anna Hill
1980 Trevor Dumbrill	1990 John Hill	2000 Not Used (Olympics)
1981 Stephen Morris	1991 Kevin Simkus	2001 _____
1982 _____	1992 _____	2002 Geoff Carter
1983 John Bassford	1993 _____	2003 Roger Eggleton
1984 Bernard Doherty	1994 Tony Walker	2004 Not Used (Olympics)
1985 _____	1995 Ron Davis	2005 Don Rutherford
1986 Gladys Tyack	1996 Not Used (Olympics)	2006 Heinz Schultz
1987 Keith Kestel	1997 _____	2007 Mark Saxby
1988 Not Used (Aust. Bicentenary)	1998 _____	2008 Not Used (Olympics)



- Letter Link Promotion for Beijing Olympics : Early in May 2008, Australia Post sent to most schools in Australia a prepaid post card promoting LetterLink 08. By this program, school students are invited to send a letter to an Australian athlete in Beijing. The LetterLink program has operated since Barcelona in 1992.