



Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter
VIEWS FROM NOBBY'S
 Newcastle Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 239C, NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
FEBRUARY, 2009 : Newsletter No. 148 : 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 12 February '09	"NEW ZEALAND FULL FACES" - Display by Denbeigh Garrard, Sydney
Sun 15 February 2009	Jwvor Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
Wed 18 February 2009	Newcastle Daytime Meeting: 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Bernard Doherty - "MODERN SOUTH AFRICAN POSTAL CARDS".
<i>Thurs 19 February 09</i>	STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)
Thurs. 12 March 2009	"REMARKABLE PLACES AROUND THE WORLD" - Display by Ron Davis
Sun. 15 March. 2009	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
Wed. 18 March '09	Newcastle Daytime Meeting: 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Warren Oliver - "EARLY AUSTRALIAN POSTAL HISTORY".
Thurs. 9 April '09	POPULAR CHOICE COMPETITION - Something Philatelic Starting with the Letter "R" - 6-page displays
Wed 15 April 2009	Newcastle Daytime Meeting: 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Diana Bridgman - "MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS & CZECHOSLOVAKIA".
Sun. 19 April '09	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
Thurs 14 May, 2009	"AUSTRALIAN AIRMAILS 1914-1934 " - Display by J. Sadler, Sydney.
Sun. 17 May, 2009	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m.
Wed. 20 May 2009	Newcastle Daytime Meeting: 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Don Rutherford - "AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY"
<i>Thurs. 21 May 2009</i>	STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)
Thurs 11 June 2009	"THE FOUR KINGS" - Display by John Pugsley

A PIECE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the new year. Here's hoping your stamp collecting flourishes even in this economic climate!

My interests in philately, although predominantly to do with the 'Boer'ing old war (!), include India, Queensland, Tasmania, and just recently Egypt. All of these were just 'collections' - in stamp albums, stock books and Hagners, and when they were becoming close to completion (as much as I could afford), I knew that they had to be presented in a much better format. I have needed a spur to get started on this. So over the past few years I have volunteered to give a club display - this has forced me to get a collection into some presentable state. India and Queensland have been done. My 'GB Queen Victoria' has been shown at a Day-Time meeting, and also at Toronto. So for the past few months 'GB - The Four Kings' which I will be displaying in June, has kept me busy - just King George VI to go. When reviewing the material I have, checking with catalogues etc., there are often new gems found, and lots more information learned about the subject area. I find the results very rewarding.

Are any of you in a similar position, or already have a collection nicely mounted? At Club level remember there are no rules - do your own thing. If so, please volunteer to show it off during our next year's activities. Your offer will be very welcome.

The promised Questionnaire regarding the Society activities is ready and should be sent out with this February Newsletter. Please take part in this survey. I believe our club is a very good club, but can it be improved? It's up to you.

THE SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS FOR FEBRUARY 2009

First many thanks to Bernard Doherty for contributing the November '08 snippets whilst I was in New Zealand. Whilst the main purpose of my visit was sightseeing and catching up with relatives, the visit was planned to coincide with the Tarapex Stamp Exhibition which was held in New Plymouth. It was a very well run exhibition with over 700 frames of competitive exhibits and 20 or so dealers in attendance. Whilst at the exhibition, I did meet up with three Newcastle members - Lionel Savins, Ed Burnard and Steve Burton. Lionel and Ed were accompanied by their wives.

I have started the process of compiling the 2009/10 programme and seek suggestions for displays. Maybe you have something that you would like to show or know of someone outside the Society that may be interested. The more notice I have the better the chance of including it in the programme.

There are three web sites that I would like to mention that are worth a visit :

www.apf.org.au is the Australian Philatelic Federation site and contains a wealth of information including exhibiting, youth information, products for sale and so on. There are also many links to other sites.

www.philas.org.au is a new site run by Philas. This site is being rapidly developed and displays information about stamp clubs and philatelic societies, Philas auction catalogues, youth information, and so on.

www.japhila.cz otherwise known as Exponet, is run by people in the Czech Republic showing hundreds of exhibits that have been submitted by various people from around the world, including Australians. Whilst there is no indication as to the awcud level of the exhibits shown, it is well worth a visit to get ideas on how others present their material and the sort of material that has been used to make up the exhibit, and the amount of write up used.

John Moore, Secretary.

FREEDVERTISEMENTS !!

February, 2009

Our member's advertisements : Phone RONDAVIS on 4951 7878 if you have something you want to buy, or swatJ, or sell.

WANTED:

KEITH KESTEL, phone 49511936 -Ausralia 1938-57 8d. Stamp Duty (yellow-green), Watermark C ofA, 1st issue.

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

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

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

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.

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.

BERNARD DOHERTY -phone 4967 5478 : WANTED : Articles and items to do with PARCEL POST- Parcel wrappings with PMG or Australia Post service labels (Usually with PP in the ID Number, although later version may have PM prefix or eight digit number), services such as Customs outward and inward, insurance labels (pink with J), use for Blind, infectious material.

Preferred with stamps to be able to work out rates. Happy to reimburse for used stamp value. Address labels from the major department stores with postage stamps (!)avid Jones, Anthony Horderns or whatever). So that is, anything to do with PARCEL POST. Contact Bernard Doherty, PO Box 18 Waratah, 2298, phone 4967 5478, or email bidoh@bigpond.net.au

JOHN BASSFORD - phone 4952 5716: Baghdad 1917 (British Occupation of Iraq), anything from "unusual countries".

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

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

KEVIN SIMKUS - ph. 4951 1597: Wanted - MORE members to put their names down on the CIRCUIT LISTS to BUY stamps!

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

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 hook 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.

THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE - display by Ed Wolf, Sydney, on 13th November, 2008

Ed Wolf is the President of the Philatelic Development Council of PI-ILLAS, and a prominent member of the Manly-Warringah Philatelic Society. He had come up from Sydney to show us this display. Ed showed us original artwork, copies of original letters, photos, stamps in multiple blocks, signed covers - a very comprehensive top quality display indeed, which included the popular R.F.D.S. "labels" issue.

Responsible for the Royal Flying Doctor Service was Reverend John Flynn, the founder of the Australian Inland Mission in 1912. In February 1911, he arrived at Beltana, over 500 kilometres north of Adelaide in South Australia, and here he saw first hand the rigours of outback life and learnt there was no medical care available to inland residents and travellers. In 1925, Flynn met Alfred Traeger, a member of the Wireless Institute of Australia, and from this meeting came the famous "pedal Wireless" in outback stations, which allowed communications with medical staff in the A.I.M. using a "typewriter" morse key. (Air-to-ground radio wasn't established until 1934, and radio-telephone was introduced the same year).

In 1927, Cloncurry in Queensland was selected as the base for the "A.I.M. Aerial Medical Service". Out of 23 applicants for a "Flying Doctor", Dr. Kenyon St Vincent Welch was appointed on a salary of £1000 per year.

"When their first Flying Doctor took off from Cloncurry on 17 May 1928, he was flying a single engine, timber and fabric bi-plane named *Victory* (which was leased from Qantas for two shillings per mile flown). This De Havilland could carry a pilot and four passengers at a cruising speed of 80 miles per hour for a range of 500 to 600 miles. In those days, not much territory was charted, and so the pilots were forced to navigate by river beds, fences, telegraph lines and other familiar landmarks. Despite these problems, in its first year, the Aerial Medical Service (which changed its name to the Flying Doctor Service in 1942 and the Royal Flying Doctor Service in 1955) flew 50 flights to 26 destinations and treated 225 patients. Reverend John Flynn's dream had become a reality." By 1939, an Aerial Medical Service was operating in all States, and there were 200 outpost radios, six aircraft, each with a pilot and doctor, covering 2½ million square miles.

When Flynn died of cancer on 5 May 1951, his body was cremated and placed under the Flynn Memorial Stones at Mount Gillen, outside Alice Springs. A stamp of somewhat controversial design commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the A.I.M. was issued on 5th September 1965, and was the first multi-colour photogravure stamp produced in Australia. (It was rudely called "the hamburger on a rock").

Previously, another stamp had been issued commemorating the R.F.D.S. on 21st August 1957, which contained two "design errors" - the sun shining from down near Antarctica, and the "wrong Caduceus" (see the article on Anna Hill's 19th November display on page 6).

On 15th May 1978, on 50th Anniversary of the R.F.D.S., a stamp was issued showing a Baron Beechcraft coming in to land at a station airstrip.

And today, the Service flies from 21 bases, manages a fleet of 47 aircraft, employs 705 staff, are on call 24 hours a day every day, and treat 242,000 patients across Australia each year.



Rev. John Flynn



De Havilland "Victory", 1928



109. Map of Australia and Caduceus

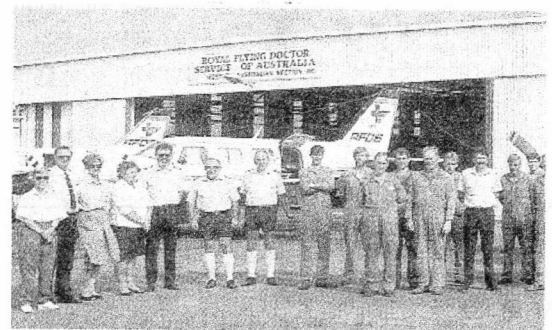


110. Grave Outside Alice Springs and A.I.M. Nurse



450. Royal Flying Doctor Service

15 May 1978



R.F.D.S. at Perth W.A.



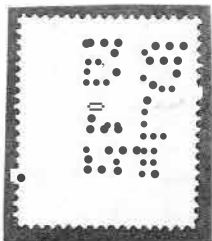
Beechcraft King Air, 1999

- R.D. -

** "BY A HAIR'S BREADTH" : Although the breadth of a hair varies from head to head, the dictionary definition of hair's breadth is 1/148th of an inch (0.53 mm).

"AUSTRALIAN COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE PERFIN'S" - display by Mark Saxby, 11th December, 2008

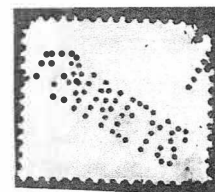
"Perfins"? It stands for "PERForated INitialS", although, as Mark pointed out, sometimes PATTERNS are used instead of the more common INITIALS, and showed us one using the arm of a morse code key, another with a bell, and the Daily Telegraph's telegraph pole and wires (1891-1916). Farmer and Company had a very fancy perfin (1924-1940), and Finneys Department Store in Brisbane used their whole name rather than their initials (1912-1921).



Bagot, Shakes & Lewis Ltd
Adelaide
Used Between 1899 - 1925



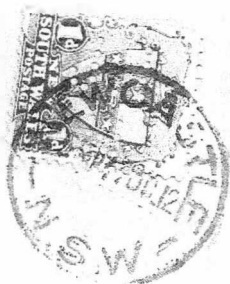
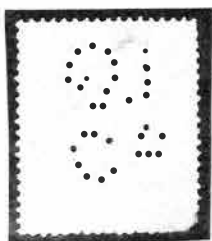
Farmer & Company, Sydney
Used Between 1924 - 1940



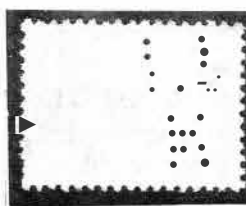
Finneys Department Store,
Brisbane
Used Between 1912-1921

The first perfins were used by JOSEPH SLOPER in England in 1858 (not long after perforations around the edges of stamps were introduced) and were intended to stop pilfering of the stamps by employees and others. They also had a limited use for advertising, but when a stamp on white paper is stuck onto a white envelope, it is very hard to see. In most cases, the initials were oriented so that they were correctly viewed from the front of the stamp - and were back-the-front when seen from the back of the stamp, which is how the majority of Mark's stamps were displayed. They show up well on black Hagner sheets !!

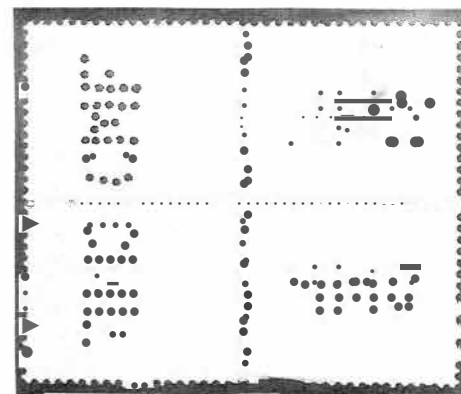
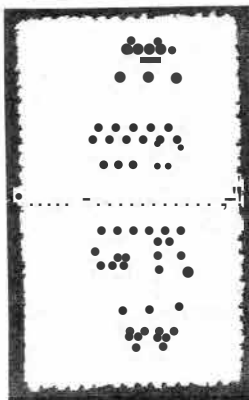
Queensland Insurance Company
Used Between 1913 - 1966



Jesse Ireland
& Company,
of Newcastle
Used Between
1909 - 1914



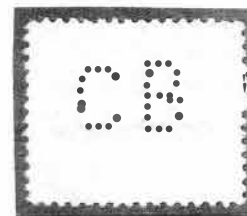
MIRROR PAIR
G & R Wills
& Company,
Adelaide
Used Between
1896 - 1942



Block with Perlin in 4 Positions
Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance
Sydney
Used Between 1930 - 1959

Sometimes the perforations were through the envelope, or through the postal stationery. Sometimes the sheets of stamps were folded before they were put through the perforator (to save time), resulting in sideways and upside-down perfins.

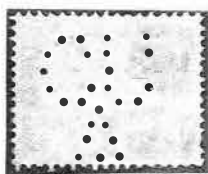
Cecil Brothers, Perth
Used up to 1940



A big hole in the middle of one stamp turned out to be a telegraph perforation from used telegrams. Because the pins of the perforators were quite thin, sometimes they broke off - Mark's example was two pins missing from the top of the letter 'P' of Prescott Ltd., Sydney. Other more outstanding perfins noted were Swallow and Ariel's Biscuits and Cakes, Vic. (**S & A**), David Jones Ltd. (1906-1951) o . Dalgety and Co. Ltd. (1896-1897): Country Producers Selling Company: **CP** 1.1° **RIGBY**
5 C° **ADELADE**

U:7

over two **J**amps. And Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, Fairfield Victoria (1927-1978), which closed in 1996.: **J** And Mark had lots of copies of the International Harvester perfin: **1 H** Interesting !



Commercial Union Assurance Company
Used Between 1941 - 1966



EXPEDITE:
[:ELIVERY

Frederick Ash, Newcastle
Used Between 1907 - 1932



THE ONE YEAR AUSTRALIAN USED-STAMP-CHALLENGE**THURSDAY, 8th JANUARY 2009**

The challenge was to collect ALL the issues from a single year, USED - single stamps, or multiples, or on piece, or maximum cards, or on cover, or whatever. Although 18 members took up the challenge, only seven actually produced an entry. We had been concerned about the potential 108 display pages to be accommodated, but in the end there was a stack of spare room on the tables! Perhaps the best excuse was from Roger Eggleton, who had produced a 2003 entry of sufficient quality to exhibit in his Stamp Club in the U.S.A., but ended up in Victoria at a relative's funeral. Space allocated was to be equal to 6 album pages.

The 7 who participated were :

1980 Trevor Dumbrill - who had condensed 35 pages down into 6, to comply with the rules. "I had to leave a lot of the stuff out," he said.

1984 Bernard Doherty - who was very proud of the fact that he had one used copy of EVERY stamp issued that year, AND still had room for a large multi-stamped piece from a parcel.

1986 Gladys Tyack - Gladys had managed to fit her 1986 used stamps onto 6 pages easily.

1989 Don Catterall - had included a hand-cancelled copy of the first peel-and-stick experimental stamp.

1994 Tony Walker - had somehow managed to find a used full set of the triangular Advance Bank stamps. Tony, who was taking a ship on its way to Japan that evening, had left his display in advance of his leaving.

1995 Ron Davis - his display of used stamps on First Day Covers was on 9 pages, but three were stapled behind to comply with the 6-page space-allocation rule.

2007 Mark Saxby - Mark had his display of single stamps and stamps on piece on black Hagner sheets.

"It was quite interesting," Ron Davis commented. "I gave up collecting Australian stamps back in 1988, so the concentration on a single year of used 1995 was indeed a 'challenge'".

OTHER HOBBIES NIGHT - also on THURSDAY 8th JANUARY 2009

Eleven of our members brought along something from another hobby other than Philately, and the wide range of interests is astounding !!

Don Rutherford brought along three of his collection of books on Antarctica, and he also grows cactus and succulents, and had a Euphorbia "Medusa's Head", and a "Kedrostis punctulata" there.

Ron Davis showed three of his many hobbies - Mosaics (a large tiled pot), Numismatics (the largest and smallest silver coins in his collection), and Pottery (a bird bath cum bird feeding tray).

Carol Davis is interested in Lapidary, and showed a faceted clear crystal, opals from Andamooka, a malachite dog, snowflake obsidian, and a polished stone butterfly on a 22-carat gold-plated leaf.

Norm Tyack showed model ships in various stages of construction from plastic kits, all to the same scale, and photos of the various model stages and of the original ships.

Diana Bridgman had an amazing collection of Santas, some from Finland, some of painted and carved wood, some signed, a musical Santa, a kissing Santa, and Matrayska (Babushka) Santas ...

John Hill told of his interest in Music and dancing the Tango, which he and Anna do at a Tango hall in Hamilton, aided by a Tango teacher in Mayfield. He and Anna gave a brief demonstration.

Anna Hill, herself a flautist, collects ethnic musical instruments, and while she has a saxophone, violin, balalaika and a lute, she had brought along a pan flute from the Andes in South America, and a thumb marimba from Africa (reminding her of the Africa she left 42 years ago).

Ian Burberry collects comedy records and comedy tapes and books. He had brought along a huge variety of these, many of them quite historic.

Don Catterall displayed a collection of Cigarette and Trade cards, particularly showing "Famous Newcastle Boxers" issued in 1902 by a confectionery firm in Newcastle, Davis and Wirth.

Howard Bridgman admitted that he couldn't SHOW his hobby, but could demonstrate it, and promptly burst into a rousing and reverberating rendition of "Danny Boy". He sings with the Newcastle University Choir.

John Moore showed his hobby of Phillumeny - the collecting and study of matchboxes, and had brought along an album of some flattened-out historical examples, bringing back lots of memories !

** "WST A MOMENT" : According to an old English time unit, a moment takes 1 ½ minutes. In medieval times, a moment was either 1140th or 1150th of an hour, but by rabbinical reckoning a moment is precisely 1/1,080th of an hour.

• "If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure." - George W. Bush

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).

"DESIGN ERRORS ON STAMPS" - Display by ANNA HILL, Wednesday 19th November 2008

Anna started collecting stamps in 1973, and has been collecting 'errors on stamps' since 1976, the year she joined our Society. She has been using a 1979 book "Design Errors on Stamps" as a reference, and says she had received a lot of help from the late Don Cox.

"Design Errors"?? "A mistake made during the design stage of the stamp production - a missing letter, a scientific name which is incorrect, a map laying claim for territory which it shouldn't have, an incorrect description of a person ... , etc." These errors are NOT things which have gone wrong in the production - a wrong colour, a missing colour, wrong paper or wrong perforations, etc.

The most common error in designs is the use of the "wrong Caduceus", demonstrated by the 1957 Royal Flying Doctor Service commemorative. The medical 'Caduceus' is the Rod of Aesculapius, which is knobbed and has a single serpent twining up the rod. The Caduceus of Hermes - with wings at the top and TWO snakes - is the symbol of commerce and communications. Perhaps it COULD be argued that the invention of the "pedal radio" used on outback stations MAY justify the use of the communications Caduceus, but the R.F.D.S. is a medical service, even so.

Perhaps the best known local errors are the use of Captain John Shortland's portrait on a stamp commemorating his son, Lieutenant John Shortland, the discoverer of Newcastle Harbour. Another error in this same set - the 150th Anniversary of the City of Newcastle, is the "missing stay" on the coal crane shown on the 5½d value. As drawn, the crane would collapse with even the smallest load.



Flags flying the wrong way, ship's funnels too tall, wrong names, wrong music Anna showed many, many more in the twelve albums in her collection, all of which she brought along to the meeting!

"UNUSUAL POSTCARDS" - Display by Don Catterall, Wednesday 21st January 2009

"I've got something for everyone," Don was saying, "but I've especially targeted 'Reflections'. Others are from 'unusual' to 'really unusual'." And so we saw postcards showing reflections of buildings, trees, gardens, and street lights on various lakes, rivers and ponds. And street scenes. And Giant ferris wheels - Chicago had the first one, then London built one, and then Vienna in the Prater Amusement Park, but this was burnt down in 1944, and was later rebuilt. Paris had a giant wheel until 1930, and Blackpool in England to 1928. The London Eye is a modern one, and Melbourne's is the most recent.

Don showed us 'Disasters on Postcards' - earthquakes, subsidence, and a mining disaster in England. There was a map of the U.S.A. showing the location of 200 Indian tribes. Mechanical postcards, with moving parts. Squeaking postcards - a cat which squeaked when you pressed its 'tummy'. And postcards made of celluloid, of copper, and of bamboo.

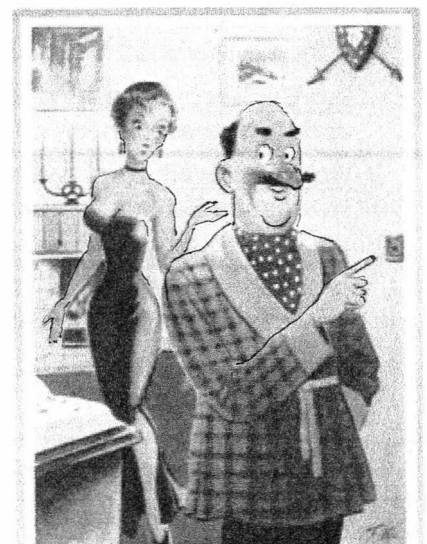
There was a bit on "Been there, Done that," with travel cards from 1899 and 1896, and "Vera in Mozambique" in 1898. Don's earliest postcard was dated 1889, and showed the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

BUT there was ONLY ONE CARD about STAMP COLLECTING ...

All very interesting !

Later in the meeting, RUSSELL GODDARD showed some newspaper cuttings about Nancy Bird Walton, the pioneering aviatrix who had died earlier that week, and two scarce uncut imperforate half-sheets of the Qantas A380 First Flight Limited Edition - the plane named after Nancy Bird Walton - issued 28th November 2008.

Bot Major, how can I &e your stamp collection if you turn off the light !



** "AT A SNAIL'S PACE": The fastest land snail on record is a garden snail named Archie, who won the 1995 World Snail Racing Championship in Longhan, England, by covering 33 centimetres (13 inches) in 2 minutes. Archie's pace was .0062 mph (0.01 km/h).

THE 2008 SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY - Sat. 29th November 2008

The 2008 Christmas Party was held at Don and Margaret Catterall's place in Charlestown, and was attended by 21 people - a sit-down barbeque. Members were asked to bring along something - anything - about which they could tell a story. This is the result :

RON DAVIS started off, telling about the A.B.C. Children's Session - The Argonauts Club - in which, 50 years ago, he was *Tantalus 21*. "A big thing in my life", Ron said, displaying his membership certificate from 1948, his Dragon's Tooth and Golden Fleece certificate from 1954, and one of his several prize books.

CAROL DAVIS described a trip the China made by one of the Newcastle U3A members, recounting some interesting facts about the country and its people.

DON RUTHERFORD, prompted by what Carol was saying, described his and Valerie's recent trip to China.

ANNA HILL showed a shoulder bag from New Guinea, acquired on a recent trip, and a trophy that she and John had won for Latin American Dancing in a "Ballroom Blitz" on board the ship. "Out of nine couples, two got cold feet, so we were one of seven".

JOHN HILL wore a T-shirt from his collection, with the rebel Che Guavara on it, acquired during a trip last year around South America. "I discovered that not every South American thinks good of Che Guavara !!"

WARREN OLIVER AND WIFE LOUISE are interested in Genealogy and family history. Warren's mother was from Millers Forest, and ne told about a Millers Forest petition against moving the Post Office in Scotts Creek Road to the school site, some long distance ...away. Also he showed some papers from the Dockyards Receiving Office in 1900.

JOHN PUGSLEY was in the Merchant Navy, and described some of their conditions - the "rum cut", and the eternal corned beef. He also admitted to having a Che Guavara T-shirt !

BERNARD DOHERTY had brought along a match-box cover from Christmas 1947-48, from the Grand Hotel, Newcastle ("Phone B3439"), inscribed "Drink Pat Garlick's Good Beer" !.

TREVOR DUMBRILL collects old woodworking tools, and showed a wooden right-angle carpenter's brace, and a gadget for setting the teeth of a hand saw.

HEINZ SCHUBERT became the life of the party. He came to Newcastle in 1970, and joined the Wine Society. He had brought along a cork from a wine barrel, AND a bottle of 1972 vintage wine, from which he poured out taste-samples for everyone there! Very tasty it was, too !

MARGARET CATTERALL is famous for her stories about toilets, but this time she showed a Xmas 1944-January 1945 'Minerva Theatre' programme, a certificate dated 19th May 1939 - she was aged 3 at the time - from Kellogg's Aviation Cadet Corps, and a poem dated 29-7-1937 "to Margaret on her 1st Birthday" by 'Ma and Pa' - her grandfather.

DON CATTERALL described a trip to Victoria on Vancouver Island, Canada, and the Royal Scot Hotel - "the best hotel we ever stayed in". There he sent a postcard enclosing some seeds, and was surprised that it got all the way through Australian quarantine without being questioned. ("And when we arrived back in England, we were the only Anglo-Saxon people in the railway carriage", he said.).

JANET DOHERTY reluctantly showed some of her intricate and beautiful beadwork.

The others attending the Christmas "Get-Together" were **Kevin Simkus, Irmgard Schubert, Michael Cvetanovsky, Gordon Gibbons, Jeanette Saul, Valerie Rutherford, and Doris Dumbrill.**



G It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

BITS AND PIECES



One of our Philatelic Society's long-time members, DR. PADDY LIGHTFOOT, has been heavily involved with the Hunter Wetlands at Shortland for 23 years. Late last year, he was named the Hunter Region N.S.W.'s Volunteer of the Year, and was in the running for the N.S.W. Volunteer of the Year Award. Paddy was quite active in our Society when he was younger, having joined on 9th March, 1967 - 42 years ago - and remains a member still.

YOUR HEALTH AND THE WEATHER ... (for collectors of 'Weather on Stamps'?)

The effect of the weather is well known in folk lore, but hard to prove. Bones and joints can ache when changes occur in the atmosphere and the sufferer can predict rain or storms.

The Ion effect : Police records in many cities of Europe, USA, Canada and Australia show an increase in violence during heatwaves, especially when associated with high humidity. Strong winds, especially those which blow for days on end, are blamed for frayed nerves and the incidence of increased violence and illness reported in the community.

Recent tests have shown that such unsettling winds have a higher than expected level of positive ions in the air, while refreshing winds, sea breezes and mountain air contain higher levels of negative ions.

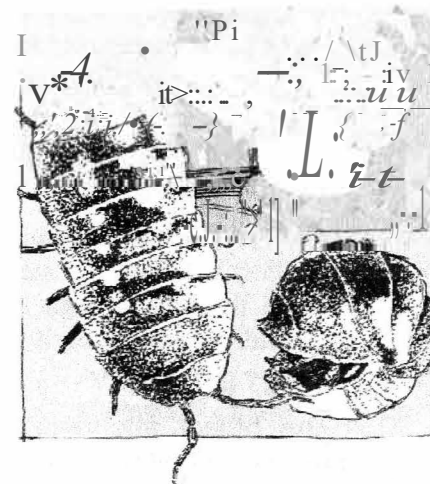
An ion is a tiny, electrically charged particle—either positive or negative. Negative ions are credited with beneficial effects on health and positive ions with the reverse. These claims have led to the development and marketing of negative ion generating machines to counter the effects of positive ions. These generators definitely help settle the dust in the air of rooms in which they are working, and so help allergy sufferers - but there is a lot of argument about their effectiveness as converters of "bad" to "good" air to make the susceptible person feel better.

Humans live comfortably only within a small range of temperatures, atmospheric pressures, dryness or humidity, ionization, oxygenation and so on, in the air we breathe. Those who become ill in excessively dry, air-conditioned offices can easily be convinced of the harmful effects of positive ion concentration.

Seasonal influences : The seasons have also been shown to affect feelings of health or illness of all people. Not only does the sap begin to rise in the trees in spring, but hair, finger and toe nails grow faster. And death and illness rates, especially in the elderly, rise noticeably during delayed winters!

a LOBSTER-COUSINS THAT LIVE UNDER YOUR POTS

It may come as a surprise to learn that one of the closest relatives of crayfish prawns and crabs is to be found in almost every garden. You know them a slaters, woodlice or pillbugs. They are true crustaceans, not insects at all! They even have gills, but this secretive branch of the family lives on land in damp, dark places. Slaters have seven pairs of legs, are between 8 and 13mm long and have oval, flattish, segmented grey-coloured bodies. They often curl up into a ball when disturbed. Their young look like paler, smaller versions of the adults and keep close by them. Slaters live mainly on dead and decaying animal and vegetable matter and are of some importance in the decomposition of garden waste. However, they are also suspected of causing damage to seedlings and to the roots of potted plants, especially in greenhouses and shadehouses. And - yes - they are shown on some stamps!



(The Sydney Morning Herald, 2nd September 2008)

ITS CO D ENOUGH TO..... The legendary shivering brass monkey with the high-pitched v0læ is no relation to the three wise monkeys (hear no evil, see no evil, speak no eVII), which are often made of ivory or stone, as well as brass. The "brass monkey" phrasE dates back to the 17th Century and has nothing to do with monkeys and their masculine appendages, or lack thereof. It was originally "Cold enough to freeze the balls of a brass monkey" ... 'of, you will note, NOT 'off'. A monkey was the nickname for small brass cannon carried on merchant ships, and in very cold weather tle brass cannon and the iron cannon balls contracted in size at different rates, making the cannon impossible to use.

"Could J N pMfnlarlr these Decell8er 20th? Ther're Chrisbaas cards to Pootle l fwttlt."