



Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter
VIEWS FROM NOBBYS
 Newcastle Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 236C, NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
NOVEMBER, 2009 : Newsletter No. 15_1_ : EDITOR: Ron Davis

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR SOCIETY

THE NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETS AT 7:30pm SECOND THURSDAY of EACH MONTH
 • MEETING HELD EX-SERVICEMEN CLUB, 2nd FLOOR MEETING ROOM, HANBURY STREET, MAYFIELD
VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

DATES	DETAILS
Thurs 12 November 2009	"AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC HISTORY" - Display by Geoff Kellow
Sun 15 November 2009	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting. at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR, 11am
Wed 18 November 2009	Newcastle Daytime Meeting: 10.00 am 48 Mackie Avenue. New Lambton East. - Display by Torny Walker - "THE NORTH POLAR REGION"
Fri 20 November 2009	NPS Christmas Party. Keith & Pamela Kestel's place, 53 Cressington Way. Wallsend (between Murnin St. and Fennore Parade). 6pm.
Thurs 10 December 2009	"AUSTRALIAN PARCEL POST MAIL" - Display by Bernard Doherty
Mon 14 December 2009	Visit MAITLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY (phone John Moore 4956 8931)
Sun 20 December 2009	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting. at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR, 11am
DECEMBER	
NO Newcastle Daytime Meeting	
Thurs 14 January 2010	"SIXTY DAYS TO GLORY" - Display by Ed Wolf
Sun 17 January 2010	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting. at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR, 11am
Thurs 20 January 2010	Newcastle Daytime Meeting: 10.00 am 48 Mackie Avenue. New Lambton East. - Display by John Moore - "ASPECTS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC"
Sat 6 & Sun 7 February 2010	100 YEARS OF STAMPS at Studio 48, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East. 10am to 4pm each day
Sat 13 & Sun 14 February 2010	100 YEARS OF STAMPS at Studio 48, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East. 10am to 4pm each day
Thurs 11 February 2010	"COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS" - Display by John Hill
Wed 17 February 2010	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 am 48 Mackie Avenue. New Lambton East. - Display by Ron Davis - "CULINARY STAMP ISSUES AND PLACES"
Sun 21 February 2010	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting. at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR, 11am
Thurs 25 February 2010	STAMPAUCTION NIGHT (details. phone Don Cattcrill 02 4943 5639)
Thurs 11 March 2010	"BRIDGES AND CASTLES" - Display by Ron Davis

A PIECE FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT ...

It is a great honour to be the President of this Society, and to those who have placed me in this position, thank you. Because of the current team and those who have previously served, I have certainly inherited a great Society. All I can say is to repeat some words from a different context: "You have all done very well". and to pay tribute to our Former President John Pugsley for his thoughtful, helpful and innovative term of office.

To those of us who collect: collect what you like and like what you collect. The scope is encyclopaedic, anything from postage stamps, cards and posters, etc. to what are called Cinderellas - any material associated with philately.

Our plans for 2010 include a Newcastle Exposition in February - inspired by the (11th issue of) Australian postage stamps - "100 Years of Philately" from 1910-2010.

We have much to look forward to, and if you would like to help, please consult with any member or the Committee. Your input is valued.

- Keith Kestel, President -

• The main pleasure in making a discovery is being able to tell someone else about it.

Santa Claus must be busy in his workshop right now, or maybe on his computer plotting his reindeer/sleigh course around the world.

The name SANTA CLAUS comes from the Dutch name Sinterklaas, meaning St Nicholas. The original St Nicholas was a Bishop who lived in Myra, Turkey. He was a good man who was kind to the poor. He died around 342 AD and many legends sprang up after his death. Celebrating his feast day on 6th December became a Christmas tradition, which resulted in his image, in a long red robe and carrying gifts, becoming synonymous with Christmas.

Nearly every European country has a slightly **different** Christmas tradition, but they nearly all used to involve punishing children who hadn't behaved during the year.

In BRITAIN, Father Christmas lives at the North Pole. He evolved from the pagan Father Frost and from the Viking Jui, a stout old man with a white beard and long blue cloak, who rode through the wood on his eight-legged horse giving gifts to the good and punishments to the bad. Christmas was banned in 1644, under the Puritans, and wasn't revived until the Victorian age.

In FRANCE Pere Noel wears a long red hooded robe, edged with white fur : his presents are carried not in a sack, but in a basket on his back. He lives in Lapland. Children do not put out a stocking, but their shoes. However, in EASTERN FRANCE there is a sinister figure called Le Pere Fouetlan, dressed in black, who accompanies Pere Noel and whips children who have behaved badly.

Christkindl is the GERMAN name of the Christ Child, traditionally portrayed as a young child with a golden crown who holds a tiny Tree of Light and brings the gifts of the Christ Child. St. Nicholas Day was celebrated formerly in RUSSIA, but under Communism he was changed to Grandfather Frost and wore blue instead of red. In SICILY he comes on Dec 13th and is called Santa Lucia.

La Befana is a friendly character in ITALIAN folklore, similar to Santa Claus. She visits Italian children to fill their socks with candy if they are good, or a lump of coal if they are bad.

In AMERICA, among the Pennsylvania Dutch, Belsnickle would look for good children to give out small gifts to. A bad child would get a warning or a smack with his rod. The name Belsnickle comes from the German Pelz-nickle, meaning 'Nicholas in Furs'.

Does this manipulation by parents to control their wayward offspring strike you as being very unfair to St Nicholas, who apparently was kind to children ? One wonders if children nowadays realise how lucky they are that they don't get beaten by Santa, or given a lump of coal instead of a present.

FREE ADVERTISEMENTS !!

November, 2009

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

WANTED:

DAVID PICKERING, phone -1953 2735 -Locomotives 011 stumps, PC's, All Ills/ralian -Specimens' (J,erprints.

JOHN MOORE, P.O.Box 528, Card((; 2285 or te/epltone 02-4956 8931 wants: Australim, Dehit Docket that was issued to claim.fees on underpaid registered mail.

REX HILL, pltone 4957 0176 -pre printed pages/or albums, Great Britailjro111 18-10, British Col111no11hveath, Channel Island, isle of Man, earfl No,folk Island, early Cocos Island.

STEPHEN BURTON, Quality pre-1950 Australian Mint or Used. Will pay ca.\t for better item., or trade. Also huy11g quali y singles and collectiom world-wide. Pto11e 4954 4002, or 0432 540 760.

BERNARD DOHERTY, plume 4967 5478: "WANTED: Article, and item. to do with PARCEL POST- Parcel IFrappings with PMG or Australia Post service labels, Priority Paid. Customs outward and illllard insurance labels. Preferred with sk1111s or counter printed lahel. Address labe!sfro111 tJe major depart11ent stores with postage stamps. i.e., fmyt11n.: to do with PARCEL POST. Contact Bemard Dolterty, PO Box 18, Waratal,, 2298, plume 4967 5478, or ell11 bjclohrf!)bigpond.net.au. Happy tu reimburse.

JOHN BASSFORD- plume 4952 5716: Bag/Jdad 1917, allyt1111.fro111 "unusual countries".

CHRIS ASHHURST-SMITH -pit 4957 0622: N.S. W. POSTMARKS, with CDS's; George V or VI All\tralia11.

DON CA TTERALL -ptol1e 4943 5639: old postcard.\, and AUSTRALIAN Revenue awl Railw,y Parcel stamps.

SANDRA BAKER -plume 4956 4515, issues sbw,vil1g "Pre-1tistory"- early man,fossils, cave painting.\, etc.

KEVIN SIMKUS-plt. 49511597: Wanted- MORE members to put tlteir names down 011 tlte CIRCUIT LISTS to BUY stamps!

FOR SALE:

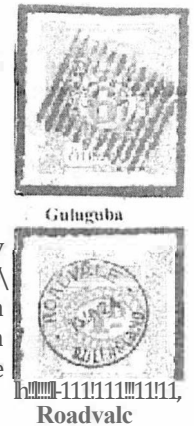
KEVIN SIMKUS- ptol1e 49511597: Stamp !tinges \$5 a large packet (1000). Hard to get ally,vltre e/\e!! Idea/for 11101111rg stamps.for sale 011 circuit book pages. Proceed.\ to Philatelic Society.fimd\.

STEPHEN BURTON -Australia and World.from 1840 to date. Will sell or trade. Visit me at WALLSEND StallpCoil1 Fair 3rd Sunday eve.,v numtlt. Free valuations. Plume 4954 4002, or 0432 540 760.

ANNUAL COMPETITION, 13th AUGUST 2009

Five entries were received in the Annual Competition, all in the Experienced Section, these being:

QUEENSLAND RAILWAYS PARCEL STAMPS - DON CATTERALL - Ruby Award. Don's entry included several rare and very rare examples of these "Cinderella" issues. For instance, **GULLGIB:** A Station that had previously not been recorded as having stamps with that Station Name - one of four such very RARE examples shown. And **ROADVALE:** One or 3 extremely RARE examples of a Station serving also as a Post Office, and thus using the Circular Date Stamp instead of a Numeral canceller. The Roadmark Stamp was also on a previously unlisted Thinner paper.



OVERVIEW OF AUSTRALIAN AIRMAIL RATES, 1938-19-18 - JOHN MOORE - Ruby Award. John's study of costs of airmail postage during, and just after World War Two included many elusive postmarks as well as interesting postal markings and convoluted arrangements of stamps.



LIBRARIES, LITERATURE AND LEARNING - CAROL DAVIS - Ruby Award
"Literature, the arts, and all forms of learning, whether in universities, Tertiary colleges, US or all schools, play an important role in the development of any country - and there is a need to assist those third-world countries which are not so fortunate... Carol's exhibit illustrated six different fields:

1. Libraries and Literature;
2. Books made into Films;
3. Folklore;
4. Children's Stories;
5. Poets and Poetry;
6. Universities.



CHILE - PICTURE POST CARDS AS POSTAL HISTORY - CORDON GIBBONS - Ruby Award

The Chilean postcards from a bygone era showed part of the story of Chile - expeditions, industries, towns, inflation, change of government ...

RUSSIA IN TURMOIL, 1921 to 1924 - RON DAVIS - Diamond Award, and WINNER of the competition. The First World War, the Russian Revolution 1917, and the Russian Civil War (1921-23) "brought Russia to its knees", with hyper-inflation, starvation, and battles between the anti-Bolsheviks and the new central government raging from the Baltic Sea to the China Sea. Army Generals ruled provinces. Postal services were seriously disrupted between 1918 and 1922. Many countries printed their own stamps, and declared their independence, only to be absorbed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1923-24.



The DORON TROPHY winner was also announced at this meeting - from among those displays through the year 2008-09 from our Society. The winner was MARK SAXBY, with his exhibit "Australian Commercial Perfins".

Newcastle Philatelic Society - AUCTION REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2009

Not a bad auction with quite a few really nice items being snapped up. Top Seller of the night was a £2 COCA SPECIMEN Kangaroo which went for \$90 to a single bidder who also picked up the f i value for \$62 but this time against some competition. \$62 was also the price paid for a set of KEVIN Ceylon issues which again attracted some serious bidding. British Commonwealth being just as popular as ever. A continuous strip of Framas from the infamous NORPEX machine well for \$50 and reminded me once more of my absence on that occasion. Imagine being overseas when Olli's own special machine was dispensing unique rarities! A canon of Thematic albums sold well at \$42 and a 6d Engraved FU Lookaburra was bid up to \$26. Total sales realized: \$1,176, and this was from the 135 lots sold of the 338 submitted. That's 40% sales and quite a strong result. Our thanks to the working team and to the IS vendors and congratulations to the 31 successful bidders. Our next auction will be in February 2010.

I hope to see you there!

- Don Catterall, Auction Convenor.



GERMAN OCCUPATION OF POLAND 1937-1945 - DISPLAY BY GEORGE KUSZELYK, 10th SEPTEMBER 2009

"My display includes mail in and out of Poland," George was saying, "and it includes Field Post mail - especially letter cards, Special Postmarks (including Hitler's birthdays), roller cancels, prisoner camp mail, undercover mail (from neutral Portugal), 'War Relief Fund' covers, unissued stamps (just before the War ended), and 'V' postmarks (= Victory. Polish Post Offices received these rubber handstamps to be used on letter mail only - the Polish citizens viewed these marks as propaganda. One of my examples is 6th October 1941)."

Following its occupation by Germany, Poland officially ceased to exist, and became part of Germany. Stamps issued in 1938 for Poland's 20th Anniversary of Independence were overprinted with the words "General Government" and a German Eagle in black. Official 'General Government' stamps were not issued until 1st December 1939, but were inscribed 'Official Formation of the General Government 7th November 1939'. The Germans also changed the names of cities - for instance, LODZ was renamed BROMBERG.



From 1941-1943, the Polish population was being systematically starved to death, to help decimate 'an inferior race'. Despite this, slogan postmarks read: "*Health Through Rye Bread*", and "*You are not important. It is the Front that matters*", and "*The Fuhrer leads. We follow*". There was a major Prisoner-of-War camp at KRAKAU. Another was at PRZEMYSL, another at KIECE. Polish officers arrived in Krakau camp 31st March 1940. George's display included 1940 camp letters from Major Ksimir Helliog, 'Camp XA, Block Z, Room 28, Row 3', then later, in 1941: 'Barracks 74, Row 12, Prisoner No. 75034'. But all was not doom and gloom - on one postcard from Stuttgart City to Krakau was written: "*Having Wonderful Days in the Mountains!*"

From 12th February 1941 to June 1941, German troops were assembling in Poland for the invasion of Russia - Operation Barbarossa, which started 22nd June 1941. This resulted in stamps inscribed "Deutsche Post Osten" (German Eastern Post), and "Deutsche Dienstpost Osten" for German Armour Command.

In 1944, the last year of the General Government, stamps were printed inscribed "5th Year of the General Government". But these imperforate stamps were not issued officially- they were discovered at the State Printing Works in Vienna and "liberated" by Allied troops and sold as genuine stamps !



-R.D.-

POSTAL HISTORY OF CHILE - DISPLAY BY GORDON GIBBONS, 8th OCTOBER 2009

"How do you pronounce IQUIQUE," Gordon was asked several times. IQUIQUE is a town in the north of Chile, a major port for the handling of nitrate and fish products. "There are two covers here relating to nitrate processing - they are the dirtiest and ugliest in my collection. Because of high temperatures and zero humidity in the north of Chile, they are very fragile. And I didn't want to clean them up because they might fall apart!" OFICINAANGELA- population 300- the source of one of the covers, is now a ghost town, because of the collapse of the nitrate mines in the 1930's.

Gordon's display included World War I censored mail (16 Feb 1918), Taxed mail (including, on one cover, British Postage Due stamps), some Travelling Post Office (TPO) covers - "Ambulancia 39", posted at LIAI - and mail from LONCOCHE - a small village between TEMUCO and VALDIVIA inscribed '*no high value stamps available*'. Other small towns, like PUERTO OCTAI, were situated on Lake Llanquihue, and their only connection was by mail boat.

And Censored mail - from the start of the Spanish Civil War (July 1936), incoming mail was censored. The Republicans - the legally elected government - were fighting a military uprising. Free Franking examples - various government officials and organisations, the armed services, and accredited foreign diplomats had the right to send surface mail free of cost, though airmail supplements and registration were still (usually) payable.

There were registered covers- one had a postal marking "via LOS ANDES if possible!" And Revenue items used on cover - these were only available on four occasions - outside these occasions, their use was illegal and fines were imposed! "E.E.U.U. de N.A.?? = Chilean for 'U.S.A.' And also noted was a slogan cancel from VINA DEL MAR: "*South America's most beautiful summer resort.*"



-R.D.-

Stanley Gibbons Simplified Catalogue Stamps of the World 2009; Volume I-Countries A-C, Volume 2 - Countries IHI, Volume 3 - Countries I-M, Volume 4 - Countries N-R, Volume 5 -Countries S-Z by Stanley Gibbons Publications, published 2008 by Stanley Gibbons Ltd. : With the vast majority of illustrations in colour, thousand of alterations, the 113 imponam illd useful indusio:i all miniature shws, e)tensive re-pricing, and th addition uf owr 11,000 stamps and 3,465 illustratinns. this set offive rolumes will particularly hdpl'ul to the all-lllrlld and tlwnatic collectors.

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).



"ALTERNATIVE POSTS IN NEW ZEALAND" - Display by ED BURNARD, Wed. 19th August 2009

"The New Zealand Postal Services Act 1998 introduced competition to the postal system in New Zealand, by re1110, ign the monopoly of New Zealand Post on the u11Tiagc of standard letters., Ed commemed. "Any company or individual is allowed tl) carry letters for profit, so long as that company is registered as a Postal Operato. by the New Zealand Secretary or Commerce".

A large number of companies and individuals hclvc registered cl's postal operators. Some have failed, others are minor local operators, but at least ten have become significant operators in the national and internal onal mail business. A number of thcsc mail companies commenced operating, using their own mailboxes or mail collection systems and did their own sorting, distribution and delivery. Most now have an access agret:mcnt with New Zealand Post who deliver the mail locally, nationally, and in some cases internationally. New Zealand Post gives a discounted charge on letters, ranging from 10% to 19% of the postal rate, depending on the stage of entry into the New Zealand Post system and the level or service provided. Several operators who have their own mail boxes or collecting system, maintain their mvn international mail distribution and delivery by having access agreements with overseas postal authorities (e.g. Australia Post).

In his presentation, Ed displayed material from ten alternative postal operators in New Zealand: DX Mail, Fastway Post, Pete's Post, New Zealand Mail, Universal Mail, Letterbox Channel, National Mail, Kiv>i Mail, Postie's Choice (Inter Black Sheep), and a nev,1 operator who commenced business in .lune this year, 2009, Croxley Mail.



"POT-POURRI" - Display by RUSSELL GODDARD, Wed. 16th SEPTEMBER 2009



Russell covert:d five diverse subjects in his display, showing some rare and unusual material. 'N.S.W. STATE STAMPS ON COVER' included NSW postmarks from the 1880's to the 1920's, including several different examples from the historic town of13urraga NSW, Russell's home town (sort ol). 'AIR MAIL COVERS' included examples flown on both bellcr-known and more obscure air-mail routes. An extension of'this topic was a huge and stunning uncut hair-pane of the Qantas A380 mini-sheet issue with 12 mini-sheets in the hal f-panc (only 375 exist!).



'LOCAL POST ISSUES DEPICTING WINSTON CHURCHILL' concentrated on the British off-shore islands, many of which have produced Churchill commemorative stamps, especially Lundy, Davaar and Stroma 'OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY COVERS'. and 'OUR SYDNEY OLYMPICS 2000' displayed souvenir material which included maps, photos, newspaper articles, first day and other covers, and, or course, stamps.



"POSTAL INNOVATIONS - THE STORY CONTINUES" - Display by JOHN HILL, Wed. 21st October '09

John's display "lived up to expectations", with some really mind-boggling material, ranging from 1392 to 1914. He had included a lot of "firsts" - the first use of paper in Europe in 1392, the first postal date stamp in 1673-1713 - the Bishopmark, a Venetian AQ form - the first letter sheet- of 1617, the first letter-sheets for general postage in Sardinia in 1818-1836, and the first pre-stamped letter sheets in 1838. But perl1aps the "crown" piece in his display was a huge 1883 postmarked Bhutan 'shirt letter', written on fabric in Bhutanese writing, which was carried over the Himalayas by a mailman whose job included reading letters and writing them for the illiterate.

An imperial letter of 1569 from Thurn and Taxis, written by Emperor Maximilian 11, was included, as were several items from the Corsini correspondence, which was the only commercial correspondence to survive the Great Fire of London. John had acquired "three superb covers" from the world-wide Zatulove collection, auctioned in London in

October 2008. So the display continued : DOCKWRA set up a local post in London in 1680; 'milage marks' (the distance from the posting office) appeared in 1765; the first use of a street number in an address in 1815; disinfected mail of 1840; the 'Penny Black' stamp of 1840; Mulready envelopes 1840-1842; in 1844, barred numeral obliterations were introduced, and duplex cancels in 1853.

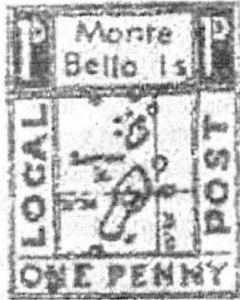


1853 - the first triangular stamps, from the Cape of Good Hope; 1854 - the first Registered Letter stamp in Victoria (withdrawn in 1858); also 1854 - the first Official st:::imps, issued by Spain; 1857 - machine cancels were introduced; the 1870-71 Balloon Post in the Siege of Paris by Prussian forces; 1876 - the first commemoratives issued by the USA; 1879 - squared circle postmarks from South Australia; 1888 - the first Commemoratives issued by NSW, and the first stamps to be designed by a woman (the 2d, 8d, and 20/- values). And so on to 1914- the first photogravure set of stamps, from Bavaria. Fascinating stuff!!

There is more ice in Greenland than in Iceland and there is more greenen: #1 Iceland rhan in Greenland

MONTE BELLO RE-VISITED ... by Ron Davis.

Many years ago, three "Monte Bello" Cinderella stamps were produced, commemorating the 1951-1952 nuclear tests on the Monte Bello Islands off the coast of Western Australia. Research later discovered that they were not "official", but are supposed to have been produced by an officer on one of the British naval ships involved with the test. Hence they were "bogus", but nevertheless very interesting. A stamp dealer in London claimed that they "were probably produced in Perth" and that they "were used on a local post service between the Monte Bello Islands and Perth during the atomic tests". The three consisted of a 1d. black on blue/green paper, a 3d. green on pink paper, and a 6d. yellow-green on cream paper.



Recently, an article in the **Westlakes Amateur Radio Club Inc. Monthly Magazine** for **November 2002** was pointed out to me by one of our members, **Gordon Shearer**. Written by an amateur radio buff, **Frank VK2ZL**, it gives some fascinating information (even if somewhat technical) about that event over half a century ago, and **A MOST UNUSUAL POST OFFICE** - it never sold a stamp, never had a letter posted and only had one customer, after five weeks it was closed down, disbanded and never opened again !

A MOST UNUSUAL POST OFFICE - MOUNT POTTER W.A.

In 1952, an official post office was opened 135 miles (220km) north east of the tiny township of Onslow W.A. It was a very isolated spot on the north-west coast of Western Australia and was 20 miles (32km) from the nearest inhabitant. During the entire 5 weeks it opened for business it never sold a stamp, never had a letter posted and only had one customer, after which it was closed down, disbanded and never opened again.

It was the MOUNT POTTER POST OFFICE and was there to service the needs of a small band of press photographers and reporters from the "Daily News" and the "West Australian". The press were there to observe the exploding of Britain's first atomic bomb on the Monte Bello Islands. At that time, telephone contact with the north west was almost non-existent and the only method of rapid reliable communication was by morse telegraphy.

After protracted negotiations, the Post Master General's department had finally agreed to open the post office on the condition that a post office building was provided. So at 8.30 a.m. on August 16th, 1952, the press party set out from Perth, comprising 9 men with a 6 ton truck, a Holden sedan, a Willys jeep and a Land Rover with a trailer, the party reaching Onslow four days later. After resting a day they travelled another 135 miles (220km) north to a pre-selected site by a billabong, which they named Burton's Billabong, and made camp. One mile (1.6km) to the west was Mount Potter which at 300 feet was to be the observation post and further west were the Monte Bellos. 60 miles (100km) out to sea.

Because the distance between Burton's Billabong and Mount Potter it was necessary to make a camp at each location. At the billabong camp was the post office, the food supply tent, three accommodation tents and the "cook house". On Mount Potter the camera and reporter positions were set up, but because of the exposed and rocky nature of the summit, it was impossible to erect any tents. Lookout personnel slept on camp stretchers between rock parapets built to give some shelter from the wind. At that time, one of the cameras used was one of the largest ever used for news work in Australia.

For operational reasons the 'post office' had to be underneath the Number 6 telegraph line which ran close to the billabong - this line ran from Perth to Mullewa across to Geraldton and then along the coast to Port Hedland, then inland again to Marble Bar where it terminated. It was one or two duplex circuits to the north west, the other, Number 65 was on an inland route from Perth to Broome via Mullewa, Meekatharra, Mundiwindi, Nullagine and Marble Bar. From Broome the line extended to Wyndham in simplex form. Once in place, the 'post office' was connected to the line by linesmen from Onslow and a few days later two expert telegraphists from the Perth chief telegraph office arrived to take charge of the office. They were Ted Rodgers and Roy Buchanan. The "post-office" located at the billabong was also connected to Mount Potter by a local telephone with the wire running across the ground and earthed at each end.

To ensure that the field telephone operated satisfactorily at a moment's notice, it was essential that these earth pegs were kept damp at all times. When the bomb was exploded, the plan of operation was for cameras to go into immediate action and for reporters to telephone copy to a copy taker at the "post office" who would hand the copy, typewritten on small sheets of paper to the telegraphists who would transmit it to Perth. One telegraphist would work on the southern section of Number 6 to Perth, the other on the north section as far as Marble Bar, when; the postmaster would patch it to the Perth side of Number 65.

This would give two circuits and enable the press tdegrams to he transmitted as quickly as possible. It also gave assurance in case or one circuit failing.

Because both or the north-west duplex lines would he in use by Mount Potter liir several hours following the blast it would leave a number or offices without their usual land line cin:uit to l\;rth. It was necessary to provide a means for these oflices to dispose or their normal traffic. This was done by smrn: oniccs south or Marble l3r sulh as Roubourne, Onslow and Port Ilcdland transmitting their trafic to Marble Bar by radio (wireless telegraphy). (Many north-west post oflices were installed with type 3BZ transmitters durini, the war years in Lasc or cyclone damage to lines). Marble Bar would re-transmit the traffic to Broome on the north st:ction or Numbt:' 65 dnd then l3roome Radio (VIO) would use its long-range radio direct to Perth. Those offices north or l3roome. i.e. Derby. Fitzroy Crossing, Ilalls Creek and Wyndham, would also stnd their trafic 10 Broome on Number 8.

As expected, living conditions were for from '5-star' and all cooking was done over an open lire. Food which was tither tinned or dried and sufficient for two months was brought with them, but this was supplemented by the purchase or a sheep once a week from Mardic station. Wild turkey. duck and kangaroo added variety to the menu. The billabong was brackish and only lit for washing, thcn:lcm: drinking water had to be obtained from a sheep watering tank six miles (10km) away and was rationed. Daytime temperatures were in the high 90's and high winds made conditions vtry unplt:asanl, especially on lop or Mount Potter where they onen reached sixty miles (100km) per hour.

The British had not been prepared lo give any indication as to the tirm: or date of the test, therefore it was necessary ror all party members to be rostered on a 24-hour watch. Party members slept in their clothes so as to be ready at an instant's notice, only their boots were removed. Photographers slept near their cameras, reporters near the phone and telegraphists by their keys.

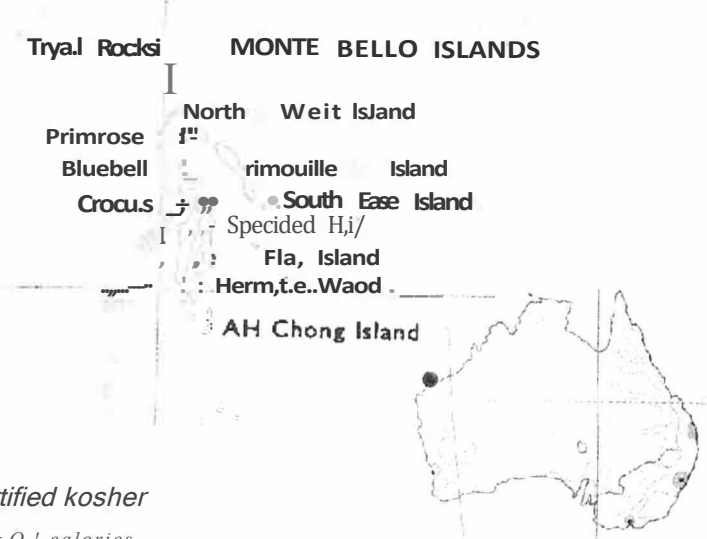
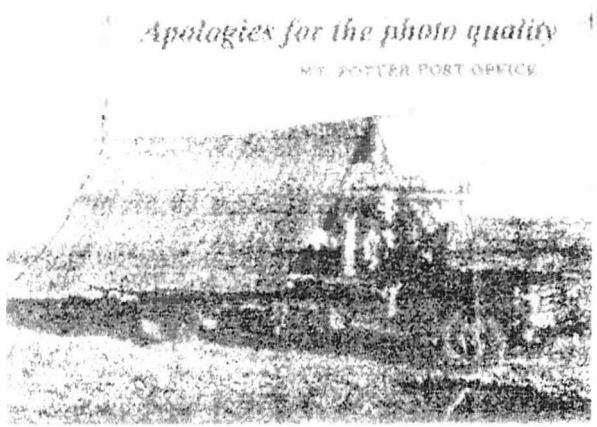
Al 8 a11l. on Friday 3rd October 1952, the bomb exploded with all its ferocity. The first indication or the explosion was a jagged streak or light, like lightning followed by a vivid orange-red flash.

Tht: atomic cloud was not the familiar mushroom shapt: but was in the shape or a "Z". Mangini was tht: first to sec the explosion and within 5 seconds the cam:tras were in action. At the same time, reporters rang the post-oflice, the telegraphist cleared the morse lines and began transmitting pre-delc:rmint:d 'news flashes'. By the time they had sent these, copy ,vas !lowing from Barnett. The first news oftht: explosion was in Perth within 3 minutes and 1 minute arter that, a heavy pulse or air pressure hit the mainland but the press reported that they did not fcd any ground shock. From Perth, the news was flashed to Melbourne, then London and New York and was in most overseas c::ipilals within 10 minutes.

During the next few hours, 12,000 words or prt:ss were transmitted by the two telegraphists. In the 7 minutes following the explosion, 300 photographs had been taken by the photographers and were developed in a dark room on the hill. They were rushed lo Mardie Station airstrip where Captain Jimmy Woods was waiting tn fly them to Perth. These photos and news or the blast were featured in all major newspapers or the world within 24 hours.

The entire operation, both from a newspaper and a post oflice angle was both historic and unique and will never be repeated ag:11l. (And the ONLY philatelic commemoration is these three 'bogus' stamps!!)

A small band or dedicated men had combined and endured harsh conditions to bring news from a very isolated spot or Australia to the world. In doing so, l3rilain was once again established as a world power, this time in atomic technology alongside Russia and the U.S./\ . At that time, the bomb was the most powerful that had ever been exploded - more powerful than those exploded at Nagasaki and Hiroshima, with devastating effect!!



- The glue on Israeli postage stamps is certified kosher
- e E,er; time) 'Oll lick S(111)f). _\Ofi 're C0/1.\illling Q ! calories.

OUR SOCIETY'S 2009 CHRISTMAS PARTY



This year, our Christmas Party will be held at **KEITH AND PAMELA KESTEL's** place, **53 CRESSINGTON WAY, WALLSEND**, on **FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER**, starting about 6 p.m.

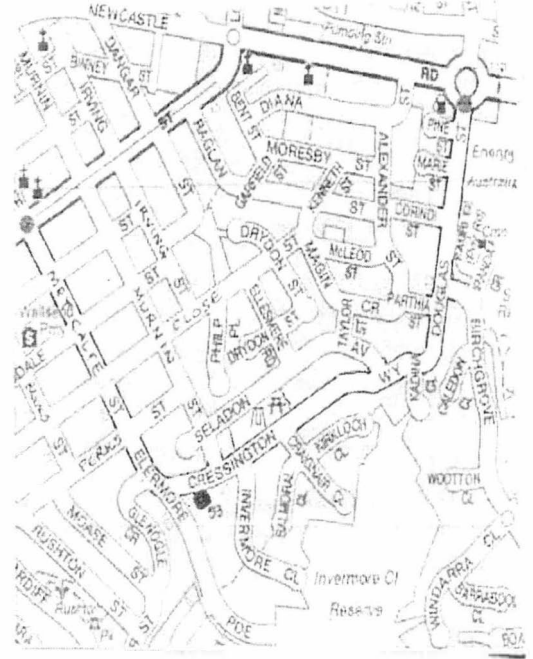
Keith is providing the meat for a barbeque (cost will be "a gold coin"), and is organising salads and sweets with selected members.

So, all that you have to bring along, apart from yourself and your partner, is "something of interest which you can either talk about, or tell a story about" if you like. Casual. No presents.

It's easy to find - if you're travelling west on Newcastle Road from Jesmond, turn left into **Douglas Street** just past Energy Australia (and Durnbrell's Spring Factory), follow it up the hill and around the corner into Cressington Way - and Keith's place is 3rd from the far end of the street, on the left. If you're travelling east on Thomas Street, turn right at the **Metcalfe Street** traffic lights, and Cressington Way is up near the top of the hill, on the left.

Phone KEITH if there are any problems - on **4951 1936**.
If you're planning on coming, he would like to know numbers.
Should be lots of fun.

Gregory's Map 294, G14; or UBD Map 131, G14.



But, if you can't get to the Party, then your Committee wishes you and your family joy, happiness, and all the very best of wishes for the 2009-2010 festive season !!

From GIBBONS WEEKLY, Vol. XIII No.1 I, of July 1. 1907:

The Postmaster-General told the House of Commons on 9th May 1907, in introducing his annual Budget, that he was also experimenting with stamp machines, so that by means of putting a penny in the slot in these machines at the railway stations, the public might obtain a stamp. The system was not yet complete, but up to the present the experiment had been very profitable, because when the pennies were put in the slot, the stamp was not always forthcoming. (Laughter). On the other hand, however, there had been a machine in use which dispensed about 6d worth of penny stamps before anyone put in a penny at all, ...



Australia Post created a 2009 stamp featuring a picture of the ALP Queensland Premier, Anna Bligh. The stamp was not sticking to envelopes. This enraged the Premier, who demanded a full investigation. All postage stamps were recalled and scientifically examined. After a month or so of testing and \$1.73 million in spending, a special commission presented the following findings:

1. The stamp is in perfect order.
2. There is nothing wrong with the adhesive.
3. People are spitting on the wrong side.

Peanuts are used in the manufacture of dynamite.



Today's fact

First-class Roman mail went by horse, second-class mail by ox cart.

While you all are enjoying your Christmas dinner, remember this: Nature's most phenomenal eating Machine is the gosh of the Pterodactyls Moth of North America, which, in its first 48 hours of its life, eats 111,111,111,111 to 86,000 times its own hirtweight. In human terms, this would be the equivalent of 7 lb. (3.17 kg) having lived in 2 3/4 million of fourishment!!!



"But what's the use - we haven't got any stamps?"

• If a frog's mouth is held open too long, the frog will suffocate.