



Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter
VIEWS FROM NOBBYS
 Newcastle Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 34, JESMOND NSW 2299
 Website: www.philas.org.au/newcastle
NOVEMBER, 2012 : Newsletter No. 163 : 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 8 November '12	Display by John Gibson (Gosford)- "NEW HEBRIDES"
Sun 18 November 2012	WALLSEND STAMP FAm, Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
Wed 21 November 2012	Newcastle Daytime Meeting: 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Jim McDougall "CANADA AND ITS PROVINCES"
Fri 23 November 2012	NPS Christmas Party, Don & Margaret Catterall's place, 13 Oceanview Parade, Charlestown (east of the Highway), 6 p.m.
Mon 10 December '12	Visit MAITLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY (phone John Moore 4956 8931)
Thurs 12 December '13	Display by Bernard Doherty - "A SMORGASBORD of ONE FRAMERS"
Sun 16 December '12	WALLSEND STAMP FAm, Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
DECEMBER	NO Newcastle Daytime Meeting
Thurs 10 January 2013	Display by - John Moore "AUSTRALIAN AIR MAIL RATES 1923-1966"
Wed 16 January 2013	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Keith Laverick "BIRDS - A PHILATELIC COMPILATION OF ORNITHOLOGY"
Sun 20 January 2013	WALLSEND STAMP FAm, Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
Thurs 14 February 2013	Display by Warren Oliver - "NEW SOUTH WALES"
Sun 17 February 2013	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR, Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
Wed 20 February 2013	Newcastle Daytime Meeting: 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East Display by Russell Goddard "POSTAGE PAID & PRESTAMPED ENVELOPES"
Thurs 21 February 2013	STAMPAUCTION NIGHT(details, phone Don Catterall 02 4943 5639)
Sat 2 March 2 @	SWAP & SALE DAY, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East
Thurs 14 March 2013	Display by Ron Davis - "MORE HARDLY-EVER-HEARD-OF-COUNTRIES"
Thurs 21 March 2013	Newcastle Daytime Meeting: 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Howard Fisher "THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA PART 2"

THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE - NOVEMBER 2012

As I looked at our programme for the coming year I was reminded of the variety of collecting interests of our members, and I began to think about what I collect and why.

Like most of us I started collecting stamps off envelopes when I was at school and sticking them into an exercise book and then advanced to the sophisticated level of an ETA Peanut Butter Stamp Album (remember them?) with a whole world collection.

I remember that the important thing was not what you had, but how many!

After a while the Whole World concept went out and Australasia, Australian States & Pacific Islands came in, this in turn reduced to Commonwealth of Australia. Ultimate it was price inflation that caused another rethink - after all who could afford a 5/- Bri e at the ridiculous price of \$5, 1 alone the hi value Roos ! Time for a change. I needed something I could afford and that no one else collected - how about South America.

Forty years on, even that has reduced to Chile alone, but even here there has been change. From stamps to air mail covers, post cards, postal stationery, postal history, pre-philatelic material, where is it all going to end? And to support this I need catalogues, stamp books, mounts, album leaves, e.c., etc. What is going to collapse - stamp collecting, or my bank balance. Ah, the joys of being a philatelist ..

- Gordon Gibbons, President

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT - gm AUGUST 2012

Currently the Society has approximately 96 members, a slight decrease over the previous year. There has been a significant decrease in the number of members attending the monthly meetings, with an average attendance of 20.

The regular Auction nights, as well as the annual Swap and Sale Night, continue to attract good attendances. One auction night there were 55 people in attendance. Thanks go to convener **Don Catterall** for his efforts in promoting both of these activities.

Ron Davis has continued to convene the Daytime meetings, attracting a regular group of attendees. Sincere thanks are extended to **Sandra Baker** for hosting these meetings, as well as our committee meetings, at her art studio.

The 2011 Christmas Party was hosted by **Margaret and Don Catterall** at their Charlestown residence. The evening was held under very threatening skies. Being the true hosts that the Catterall's are, they had already pre-cooked the barbeque meats and had tables set up inside their home for those attending to have a most enjoyable evening of good food and company.

The Newsletter, which continues to be edited by **Ron Davis** with help from **Bernard Doherty**, allows members who wish, to receive an electronic copy in full colour in preference to the printed black and white copy. I commend those that are still receiving hard copies in black and white to consider moving to an electronic copy which is in colour.

Stephen Morris continues his efforts in attracting Youth to stamp collecting, with varied participation, and with occasional assistance from **Sandra Baker**.

Mark Saxby as Publicity Officer continues to promote the Society in the printed and electronic media, as well as exploring other avenues to maximize the Society's activities to the larger community.

During the year a number of members displayed their collections to members of other clubs, as well as participating in various exhibitions in Australia and overseas. Thanks are extended to those that have taken the extra step and shared their exhibits with others.

The Daron Trophy was again keenly contested with seven Society members being eligible, the winner being **Warren Oliver** with his "NSW - Sydney Views" exhibit.

The annual Popular Choice Competition held at the April meeting was "Something Philatelic Starting with the Letter U". There were eight entries with the winner being **Don Catterall** - "U", a mixture of the unusuals, undeliverables etc.

In the 2012 Annual Competition, there were six entries in the Experienced section. These were judged by **Bernard Doherty**, **Don Rutherford** and **Gordon Gibbons**. The winner was **Don Catterall** with his "NZ Railway Newspaper, Parcels and Charges Stamps", very closely followed by **Mark Saxby**.

I wish to record a particular thank-you to **Bernard Doherty** for standing in for me on a number of occasions, including tonight (9th August), whilst I enjoy the delights that Inverness in Scotland offers. Thanks also go to **Kevin Simkus** and **Don Catterall** who always present their financial reports in hard copy, making minute-taking just that little easier.

Bernard Doherty / John Moore, 9th August 2012

ONE-FRAME EXHIBITION AT PHILAS HOUSE, 20th OCT. 2012

Have you ever shown items from your collection in an exhibition? When you first take that step, a one-frame exhibit (15 or 16 pages) is just the right size to try your skills at research, organisation, presentation, and write-up. There are many personal benefits. Your skills develop, your knowledge and enjoyment of your collecting area increase, and you understand better how your collection could evolve. Such benefits reward the effort invested.

Creating an opportunity for gaining such experience, the Philatelic Development Council (PDC) invited newcomers to formal exhibiting to show one-frame displays at PHILAS House on 20th October. No entry fee applied, and displayers had the option of having their entry judged or not. The judges were available to discuss a judged entry with its owner.

Four entrants chose the judging option: John Franklin, *Australian Postal Rates 1914-1923* (Vermeil, 81); Brian Wicks, *War and the Post* (Silver, 71); Roger Eggleton, *Parcel Post, Italy* (Gold, 86); Ian Laney, *Tramways from Horse to Light Rail* (Vermeil, 77). Two other entrants chose simply to display: Andrew Brockett, *The Torres Strait Mail during WWII*; Ken Leong, *Madagascar and Zanzibar*. Two experienced displays (a "Court of Honour") rounded out the exhibition: David Collyer, *En Tour -Airmail Postcards from Australian Tourists in France 1960-1993*; Ed Wolf, *A 1933 Race to the Dutch East Indies*.

This PDC event will probably be held again in October 2013. How many NPS members will decide to participate and enjoy the benefits?

- Roger Eggleton -

** In 2010, the world's airlines spent \$140,000 million on Jet fuel. Now 5 commercial airlines are using up to 50% biofuels, but it costs around three times the cost of Jet A-1 fuel. The possibilities of using algae for aviation biofuel are being explored. Using municipal waste from cities to produce biofuel will solve a land fill issue and provide airlines with a new stream of clean energy - projects to use municipal waste to produce jet fuel are being developed in London, Northern California, Sydney and Rome. The mega-cities of Asia could potentially supply millions of tonnes of organic waste material to convert into aviation biofuels. *EcoNews*.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2012

General Account

Newcastle Permanent Building Society Charlestown - Cheque Account No 969449901

Opening Balance 1-7-2011 \$3169-66

INCOME

Subscriptions	700-00
Interest Insurance & Exhib a/c	2132-16
Commissions & Sale by Tend	260-90
Sundries	85-51

TOTAL \$3178-57

Closing balance 30-6-2012 \$11a-91

EXPENDITURE

Room Rent	800-00
Insurance	230-00
Affiliation Fees	239-50
Expenses	557-83
Australian Tax Office	365-00
Bank Fees	13-00
Donations	100-00
Transfer to insurance fund	1000-00

Refund 2Z-SQ
Total \$3796--03

NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. EXCHANGE BRANCH

Statement of Income and Expenditure

National Australia Bank 1st July 2011 to 30th June 2012

Income		Expenditure	
Balance at Bank, 01/07/2011	2,597.05	Payments to Vendors	1,119.46
Sales from Books & Late Fees	1,204.10	Postage & Telephone	55.90
Commission & Interest	147.80	PO Box	93.00
Unpresented Cheque	33.55	Unpresented Cheque	33.55
Adj Entry	15.00	Balance at close, 30/06/2012	<u>2,690.80</u>
Interest	<u>0.08</u>		
	<u>\$3,997.58</u>		<u>\$3,997.71</u>

To all Members :

As at the 1st July 2013, I will be retiring from the position of Exchange Branch Convenor. Unless a Member or Members inform the President that they are prepared to accept the position on or before the 1st February 2013, I will, with the Committee's approval, commence winding the Branch down. As from that date I will NOT ACCEPT any further material.

Kevin Simkus, Exchange Branch Convenor

***UNDERTAKER INVENTED PHONE SWITCHBOARD

The first direct-dial telephone exchange was installed in 1892 - because an undertaker was convinced that he was being robbed of rightful business!

Almon Brown Strowger was an undertaker in Kansas City. The wife of a rival undertaker worked on the local manual phone exchange. Over a period of time, Strowger became convinced that she was illegally diverting calls that were rightfully intended for Strowger to his competitor. He wanted a 'girl-less, cuss-less, out-of-order-less, wait-less telephone', so he invented a direct-dial telephone system, to bypass the operator. He set up the Automatic Electric Company in 1891.

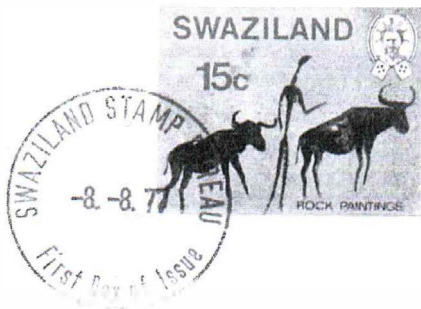
His direct-dial system became essential. By 1951 there were so many phone calls made in the U.S.A., that if they were carried through manually operated switchboards, half of the adults in America would have been needed to operate the exchanges!

*** If a deaf person has to go to court, do they still call it a hearing ??

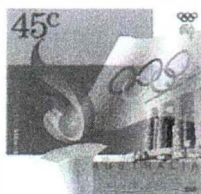
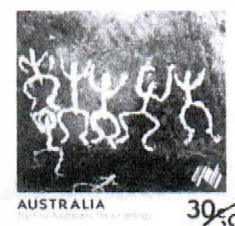
THE ANNUAL COMPETITION, Q1/AUGUST 2012

In our 2012 Annual Competition, there were six entries in the Experienced section. These were judged by Bernard Doherty, Don Rutherford and Gordon Gibbons. There were NO Intermediate or Beginners' entries.

RON DAVIS - "FEATURES OF THE SAHARA" showed stamps and a number of large postcards of different unusual landforms, ancient rock art, and other features of the Desert, which most people think is ALL sand. In fact, over 70% of the desert is comprised of four craggy mountain ranges, bare stone plateaus, gibber plains, and low scrub with the odd acacia tree - and the occasional palm tree lined oasis. This entry was awarded a BRONZE, with 53.3 points.

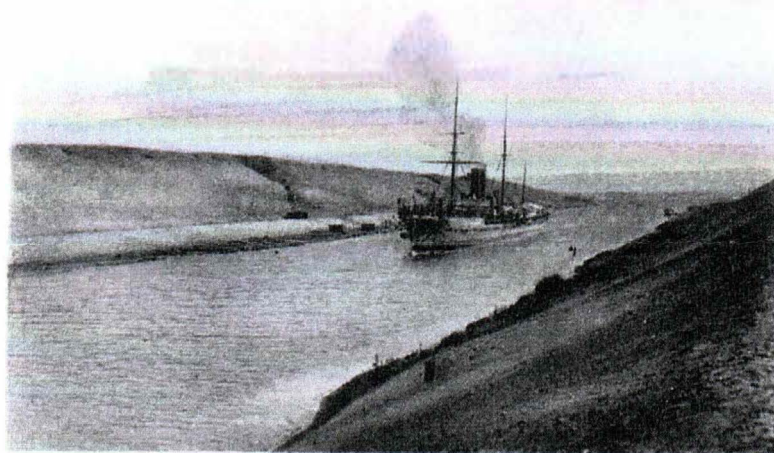


CAROL DAVIS's entry, "EARLY MAN -ARTEFACTS AND ART" gained a LARGE SILVER award, with 69.7 points. Carol included stamps and postcards from all around the world depicting prehistoric skulls, rock carvings and rock paintings, ancient weapons, tools, utensils and ornaments, and anthropological drawings showing early Man's development.



2000: Olympic Fl11.
Flami! m1 Panlienon

RUSSELL GODDARD - "OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY, SYDNEY 2000" gained the highest marks for "Presentation", and with 71.7 points was awarded a VERMEIL. Russell showed a variety of philatelic material issued by Australia Post, together with maps and other pictures to illustrate the Torch's route from its start in Greece across the world and around Australia to Sydney, and the lighting of the Cauldron at the Olympic Park.



MMSS Oxus traversant le Canal.

MMSS Oxus passing through the Canal near Ismailia

RON DAVIS's entry, "THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL", traced a letter through this famous waterway, which opened on 17th November 1869, posted in April 1888 at its southernmost point at Port Tawfik in the Gulf of Suez through the various Canal features and the ports of Suez, Faid, Serapeum, Tussum, Ismailia, El Kantara and Port Said around to Alexandria in the Mediterranean Sea. Ron's entry was awarded a LARGE SILVER with 67.7 points.

MARK SAXBY was a close Runner-Up with his entry entitled "PRE-PHILATELIC POSTMARKS OF PERU" which earned 79.0 points and a VERMEIL award. A large number of scarce and rare pre-stamp covers with fascinating postmarks from remote, obscure places stunned the viewers. Peru issued its first postage stamps in March 1858, and Mark's material dated from before or just after this date. Considering the country's massive mountains and primitive methods of travel, these covers would have great stories to tell !



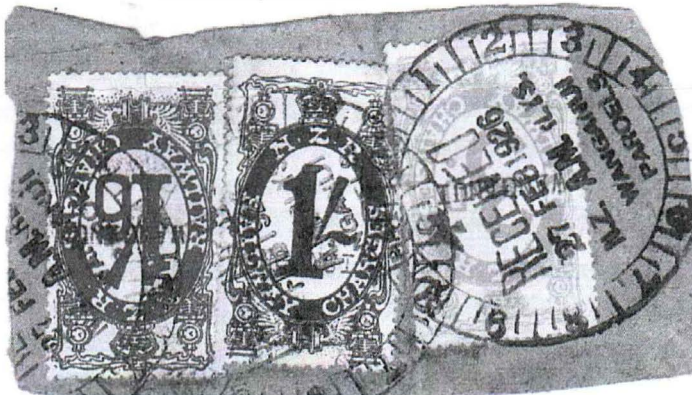
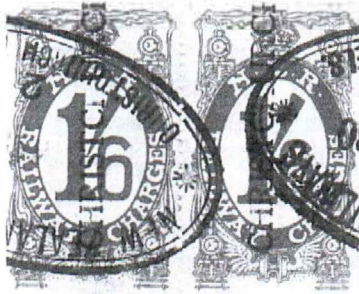
• THE ANNUAL COMPETITION, 9TH AUGUST 20•2 (continued) :

DON CATTERALL was the Competition Winner with his "NEW ZEALAND RAILWAY, NEWSPAPER, PARCELS AND CHARGES STAMPS", gaining a GOLD award (80.7 points). Also a stunning exhibit, Don's entry induded many hard-to-get, rare and scarce "Cinderella" items and Revenue stamps, most of which we had never previously seen. Don was particularly proud of a block of four used 2d. Railway stamps overprinted "Central 8.0. Wellington", possibly unique. Induded in his entry were details of the ever-changing freight-rates, especially of the 1926 to 1928 period . These stamps were all shown on their original piece.



Dunedin

Christchurch



Wanganui



Central B.O. Wellington



Colour variations found can be quite significant, and three examples of this are shown.

Note also the very thick printing on the second twopenny stamp.

FREE ADVERTISEMENTS!! November, 2012

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

WYONG STAMP FAIR, Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th November, 10 to 4 p.m., Masonic Village, Christopher Crescent, Lake Haven (Central Coast). Phone Dennis Senter 02 4392 3610, or: dandasonter@bigpond.com . Free entry.

MUDGE COIN AND STAMP FAIR, Sunday 18th November 2012.

FOR SALE:

GLADYS TVACK -phone 4987 5996 - *a thematic collection of SHELLS, and shells used in ornaments, masks, etc. About 200, ex circuit sheets from a Victorian Club. PNG, Kenya, NZ, Grenada, Nauro, Aitutaki, Tuvalu, China, Cayman Is., Tuva, Maldives, Mauritius, Djibouti and Liberia. ,y reasonable prices. Proceeds to charity on Burma-Thai border.*

HAROLD FRANKS -phone 4953 0050. *J have "1000s" of Australian INTERNATIONAL stamps - mint, mint no gum, and used, including the hard-to-get high values. Also some overseas stamps, mainly Poland and Russia.*

KEVIN SIMKUS -phone 4951 1597 : *Stamp hinges \$5 a large packet (J000). Hard to get anywhere else! Ideal for mounting stamps for sale on circuit bookpages. Proceeds to Philatelic Society funds.*

WANTED:

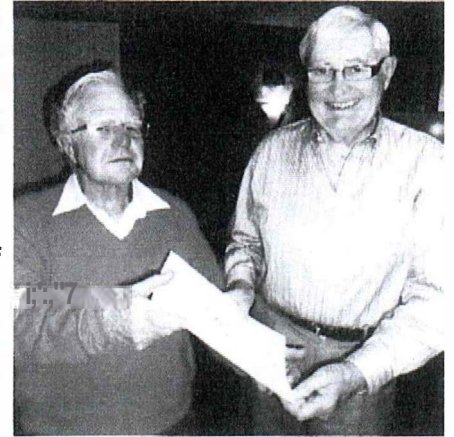
SANDRA BAKER - phone 4956 4515 (answering machine at Studio 48) or 49574715 - *ANY stamps showing artifacts and monuments from EGYPT, like United Nations Day, and Stamp Day, etc - Nubian monuments, Egyptian images....*

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

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

"YOU'VE GOT MAIL" - WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE 2000 B.C. TO 1914 - display by JOHN HILL, Thursday 13th September 2012

Why 1914? "By 1914, many of the elements of what we think of as the modern postal system were in place." But going back to 2000 B.C. - messages were passed on by word of mouth. Even the Australian aborigines' message sticks were primarily "mind joggers" for the messenger. Paper hadn't been invented, let alone the pen or the pencil. Flattened inner bark from trees, and sheep-skin parchment preceded Egyptian papyrus and papermaking, which reached Europe from China between the 8th C. and 11th C. Paper wasn't made in Britain until the early 16th Century, and prior to that imported it from Italy or Spain, but watermarked paper was first produced in 1293. John had a letter to Venice dated 1392, and a further Venetian letter of 1413. While the first "letter-sheet" was produced in 1617, John had examples from Sardinia in the 1800's and the NSW Mulready sheet from 1838, and Dickinson's Penny Post wrapper of 1837. About this time, letters were sent to and collected at Britain's coffee houses (for instance, Searles Coffee House 17 FE 1760). In 1790, the date appears in postmarks at London and Edinburgh, and in 1815 the first street numbers were introduced.



John displayed a Babylonian clay tablet from 227 B.C., into which had been incised various tally marks, before it had been baked. Then he went on to display other incredibly rare material - a rare Bhutanese shirt letter, a letter from Emperor Maximilian II dated 8th June 1569 via Thum and Taxis, an envelope front from NSW Governor Lachlan Macquarie's correspondence with England, a Duke of Wellington cover from 1865, and an item of "slave mail" (USA, 1852) inscribed "per boy".

Between 1840 and 1853, there were lots of experiments with postal markings and perforations. Roland Hill had, of course, introduced the famous 1d. black and 2d. red imperforate adhesive stamps on 6th May 1840 at a "Postal Reform" meeting attended by the Prime Minister and Queen Victoria. It was later reported: "needless to say, the Queen was won over by the items". Then Henry Archer invented perforations in 1847.

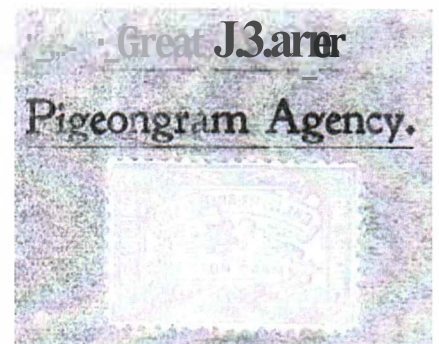
The display included a remarkable collection of "firsts": 1854 - the first Official Stamps for Castile and Leon in SPAIN; the first air mail by balloon, 1870-71 in FRANCE, during the Siege of Paris by Prussia; the world's first air mail stamps for NEW ZEALAND's Great Barrier Island Pigeon Service, 1898-1908 (in 1896 the first message only took 1¾ hours!); the first OFFICIAL air mail flight on 18th February 1911 between Allahabad and Naini Junction in INDIA; and in 1888 N.S.W.'s first commemorative stamp. 1889 saw the first commemorative post card, issued for 50 years since the introduction of the Penny Post in BRITAIN.



The 1890's saw the introduction of pictorial stamp designs, the first being LIBERIA in 1892 - where previously there had been stars, presidents, shields and coats of arms, animals, trees and scenes came in.

"Squared circle' postmarks were introduced at about the turn of the century, remembering that the basic idea was to "obliterate" the stamp to prevent its re-use (they had had trouble in the 1840's with a black postmark on a black stamp (!) - hence the later introduction of the 1d. red).

In 1913, the first pneumatic post stamps were printed (ITALY); and 1914 saw the first photogravure set of stamps from BAVARIA. Then came the First World War



*** When you go on holidays, always get there yesterday. That's when the fish are biting.

"UNUSUAL POSTAL SERVICES" - a display by ALBERT WYNTER, Thursday 11th October 2012

Albert had come all the way down from Armidale, His display covering eleven "Unusual" services, some only 1 page, some 16-17 pages.

PNEUMATIC POSTS: Originally developed in England, these services were popular in the mid to late 1800's, but, using trolleys in large underground tubes, were short-lived in Britain (1826-1873). The system was introduced in FRANCE in 1866, where tubes below the surface ran between Post Offices and carried cylinders by compressed air at 60-70 km per hour. On arrival, letters were delivered by telegram boys or by motorcycle. The service was terminated in 1984, superseded by Fax and telephones. The cylinders were 65-85 mm diameter, so wouldn't take large envelopes, and senders had to use postal stationery - postal cards or letter cards and special envelopes. There were 450 km of tubes in the Paris system. Pneumatic posts were also used in GERMANY - the "Rohrpost" of Berlin, which continued up to World War 2, but as most of the engine houses (to produce the compressed air) were in EAST Berlin, it closed down shortly after the War. 267 km of tubes in Berlin carried 3,129,756 letters or postcards in 1896. The system in Vienna, AUSTRIA, started in 1875, and was restored after damage in World War 2, but ceased to operate in 1956. "The clearing of pneumatic mail from the collection boxes takes place daily in the period from 7.00am to 8.30pm every 20 minutes" - quite a service!! These posts also operated in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in Prague, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, where there was no special stationery - just an etiquette on the envelope. ITALY also had a similar service in Milan, Turin, Genoa, Rome and Naples - there was a restriction on size, and special "POSTA PNEUMATICA" stamps were issued.



THE BALLOON POST OF PARIS : During the Siege of Paris by Prussia from September 1870 to February 1871, 65 balloons were sent up, each carrying a balloon operator, VIP's and mail and crates of pigeons. 2,500,000 letters were carried, but most have been destroyed. The wind often took the balloon to Germany, where the VIP's and the mail addressed to France were confiscated, but other mail was let through, with a special Port DO ("carriage forward") cachet applied.

AIR GRAPHS : There was a shortage of aircraft and not much space for letters for troops fighting in the Middle East. British servicemen were supplied with an Airgraph sheet for 3d. A message would be written on it, and it was sent to Cairo where it was microfilmed, then to Durban and across to England. When it got to London, it was enlarged by Kodak, then put into special envelopes and delivered to the recipient. Thousands of letters could be put on a single roll of film, saving valuable cargo space on the aircraft that available.

AUTOGYRO SERVICE : An autogyro with a 4-bladed rotor has a short takeoff and landing characteristic, and could land on the top of the GPO in Philadelphia, USA, and take off again. Used in 1939, the autogyro was limited to 150 lbs (68 kg) of mail per trip. It made five round trips a day (except Sundays and holidays) between Philadelphia GPO and Camden airport in the next State.

PARACHUTE MAIL : Tokalau Island in American Samoa was involved with parachuted mail from Canton Island in December 1942. The first mail was dropped from 330 metres (1000 feet) over Nukunono, but landed rather heavily, the canister flew open, and mail was damaged. Parachute mail was also dropped onto Momington Island, and also on Apia, West Samoa, on 8th January 1947.

SILA-THE TRANSATLANTIC SERVICE: The North and South Atlantic Oceans were big barriers in the early days of airmail, and various ingenious methods of re-fuelling at depot ships stationed 400 miles (640km) off the coasts, and catapulting aircraft from "mother ships", were used. Sweden's ,Svensk Interkontinental buft-trafik service developed before WIV2 ended, but could only use DC4 long-range aircraft until late 1946. But 69 Flying Fortress bombers had landed in neutral Sweden, and couldn't get back to the USA because of damage, so were held in Sweden. SILA was allowed to buy 10 of these planes (sold for \$1 each!!), 7 to use as aircraft and 3 to cannibalise, their name changing from 817 to F17.

SHEFFIELD SCOUT POST: Between 25th November and 1st January 1981, 11,000 Christmas cards were posted in special mail boxes set up in Sheffield, England. The mail was collected and sorted by Scouts and delivered around Sheffield. Stamps were sold for 1Sp, while regular mail was 22p.

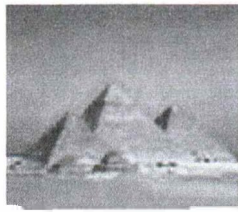
Albert also displayed the FIRST AIRMAIL CARRIED BY A JET AIRLINER (in an Avro, not the Comet), covers from WN2's BALL-BEARING RUN (when mail was carried from Britain to Stockholm in the bomb bays of Mosquito aircraft, carrying ball bearings on the return flight), and the ADAMS wire-hook pick-up system which operated for 9 years in Pittsburgh, USA (a flying high-wing monoplane would catch the mailbag suspended between two poles, having previously dropped a metal canister from 30 to 40 feet to deliver mail). Interesting!

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).**

"A POT-POURRI OF PRE-HISTORY"

a display by **SANDRA BAKER, Wednesday 15th AUGUST 2012**



Concentrating on the architecture of EGYPT, Israel and Jordan, Sandra included stamps and postcards of most of the well-known sights of the ancient kingdoms- and a few more obscure ones! Abu Simbel, and the Egyptian monuments and pyramids at Karnak and the Valley of the Kings were all included. The lesser known Red Pyramid of Sneferu near Dashur, and some entry tickets for different sites with part of a Temple complex on them were featured, as well as a Coptic papyrus. The hero of ISRAEL, David, and his battle with Goliath. was included, as were postcards of Petra, JORDAN. Baalbeck is a city in eastern LEBANON, chiefly famous for its excellently preserved Roman Temple ruins. It was a flourishing Phoenician town when the Greeks occupied it in 331 B.C. They renamed it "Heliopolis" (City of the Sun). It became a Roman colony under the emperor Augustus in 16 B.C., and these monumental temples and courtyards were completed over the next 300 years. The Baal Festival in SYRIA was also included in Sandra's display.



"PARCEL POST- SOME HIGHLIGHTS"

- the display by **ROGER EGGLETON, Wednesday 19th SEPTEMBER 2012**



Roger's display concentrated on the largely unheard-of Italian POSTAL CARD system. Up until 1879, when the Universal Postal Union was formed, Parcel Post services were organised on a private basis by railway and shipping companies and private coach lines. Italy was first, Britain was one of the last. High face value "PACCHI POSTAL!" stamps were issued by Italy in 1884.

Then, two years later, they had a better idea(!)- PARCEL CARDS, with an impression of King Umberto I and the stamp value imprinted, the parcels only available picked up at the Post Office. Stamps became redundant. By 1889, six parcel cards were issued, with the lowest one (25 centesimi) for sending an empty container back to the sender(!). Later, a two-tier system was introduced-for an extra payment of 75 centesimi (later reduced to 60 centesimi), a parcel would be delivered to a home address. From 1906, Umberto was replaced on the cards by an impression of Victor Emmanuel III. In 1914, as Parcel Cards couldn't be issued for value, 2-part "Shield Series" parcel stamps were re-introduced, using a basic card and stamps to make up the difference. The left part of the stamp was used on the recipient's notification, the right part for the sender's receipt. Then there was a special rate for sending two parcels to the same recipient.

Things changed during the Italian Social Republic period, 1943-45 with fasces-obliterated stamps, the "Gustav Line" across the centre of Italy and the fascists in power for 1½ years. Parcel Post stamps were the only stamps issued during the reign of King Umberto II, who only reigned from 9 May 1946 to 13 June 1946 before he abdicated. Interesting stuff, indeed! Roger also included some parcel items from the Free City of Danzig (Gdansk), and the PAKKE-PORTO "Polar Bear" issues of Greenland, 1905-1937.

"NEW ZEALAND ALTERNATIVE POSTS"

display by **ED BURNARD, Wednesday 17th OCTOBER 2012**

The New Zealand Postal Services Act 1998 introduced competition to the postal system in New Zealand, by removing New Zealand Post's monopoly on the carriage of standard letters. The result became quite convoluted. Any company or individual is allowed to carry letters for profit, so long as that company is registered as a Postal Operator, by the New Zealand Secretary of Commerce. A large number of companies and individuals have registered as postal operators. Some have failed, others are minor local operators, but at least ten have become significant operators in the national and international mail business.

A number of these 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 agreement 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 of service provided.

Several operators who have their own mail boxes or collecting system, maintain their own international mail distribution and delivery by having access agreements with overseas postal authorities (e.g. Australia Post). Ed displayed material and commented on ten alternative postal operators in New Zealand. These were DX Mail, Fastway Post, Pete's Post, New Zealand Mail (including Postie's Choice - later Black Sheep), Universal Mail, Kiwi Mail, Letterbox Channel, National Mail and Croxley Mail, as well as Stampways, the Coast Community Society Rural Document Exchange, the Pirongia Document Exchange, and Perry's Buses.



., The Greek national anthem has 158 verses

SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS for November 2012

Many thanks are extended to Bernard Doherty for standing in for me earlier this year whilst I was in England and Scotland, and for editing the bits and pieces I had emailed back him into the Secretary's Snippets in the last Newsletter. It is very pleasing that in our Society there is always someone willing to step up and help when needed.

The London Olympics were being held at the time I was in Scotland, with considerable press coverage and in particular the exploits of the Scottish competitors. Many of you will be aware that Royal Mail issued stamps for each of the Gold medal winners with the aim of having these stamps on sale in 600 post offices at the commencement of trading on the day following the awarding of the medal. In order to make this happen there were various print sites around Britain. With 29 Gold medal winners and at least six different prints, collecting of these stamps was rather an expensive exercise for those that wanted one of "everything".

At the end of my trip, back in London, there was an 'OLYMPEX' Exhibition at the British Library where there were approximately 100 frames of Olympic material on display, much of which was related to the two earlier Olympics that had been held in London. Disappointingly, the special information booth that had been set up in the Library forecourt was closed at the time I was there, so I was unable to purchase any souvenirs as a memento of my visit.

Closer to home, Australia 2013 - a world exhibition to be held in Melbourne - is getting closer. The Exhibition will have 3200 frames of competitive exhibits plus material from the Royal collection, which I am sure will delight those that are able to get to the Exhibition. They have a very comprehensive website: www.australia2013.com, where you will find information about products available, and in due course a list of dealers and material on display.

-- John Moore, Secretary --

AUCTION REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2012

Well, this was an auction with a difference. Many of our regulars being absent !

Several had booked "The Vienna Boys Choir", performing at the Civic. Others were in China or Canada and a few were sick. Still we managed to attract 28 bidders and sold 159 lots of the 391 presented. That, as seems usual, worked out at 40% but on this night the high value lots went unsold and we registered a lower than normal tally of \$913. We had 20 vendors with a huge range of items on offer and the most popular on this night seemed to be stock books. Over a couple of dozen were sold with many countries and topics catered for and even some empty ones. Revenues were also popular and British Commonwealth as always attracted buyers.

Highest price paid on the night was \$26 for a 1934 Airmail cover from Paris to Riga via Berlin, whilst a 1992 Year book sold for the same amount, as did a very useful collection of early GB which at reserve was "stolen" at that price. Was everyone asleep?

All in all it was a Very Good Night which went well, and our Thanks go to all who participated whether buying, selling or making it happen. See you at the next Auction in February.

Don Catterall, Auction Convenor.

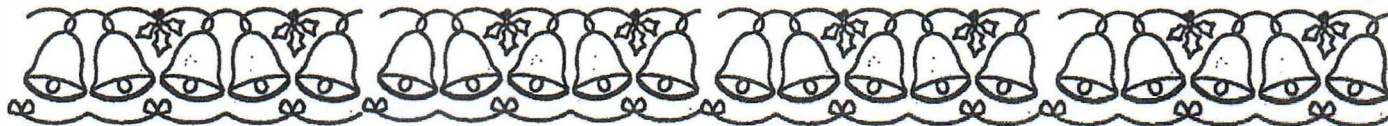


WITCHCRAFT serious crime in the Maddie Ages.

If a husband couldn't get a divorce, he could always accuse his wife of being a witch. Chances are the poor lady would be burned at the stake. Of course, they didn't simply take the husband's word for it. Being an enlightened society or at least a society going through the Enlightenment, they had tests for that sort of thing: like trial by water. Court officials would tie the woman's feet and hands together and then drop her into some deep water. If she went straight to the bottom and drowned, it was a sure sign that she wasn't a witch and that the husband had made a mistake. On the other hand, if she didn't sink and just bobbed around for a while, the law said she was to be condemned as a witch. Divorce granted. In Holland skinny women had to be very careful - if they weighed in on the town scale light enough to ride a broomstick, they were burned to death.

- BRAZIL is a major competitor to Australia in agricultural products - it has a population of 195 million, is almost 1.2 our size, has rich topsoil between 14 and 20 metres deep, and annual rainfall from 1,000 to 1,500mm. Brazil is now also the world's biggest beef exporter to 140 countries - it is also the world leader in sugar, coffee, orange juice, ethanol, tobacco, soy and poultry exports. *Farm Policy Journal*.

**** After the boss of the Wall Street firm Merrill Lynch helped destroy the company in the subprime mortgage crash of 2008, he received a \$US161.5 million severance package funded by the American taxpayer - he now sits on the board of Alcoa. SMH**



OUR SOCIETY'S 2012 CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

This year, our Christmas Party will be held at DON AND MARGARET CATTERALL's place, 13 OCEANVIEW PARADE, CHARLESTOWN, on FRIDAY 23rd NOVEMBER, starting about 6 p.m. Don is providing the meat for a barbeque (cost will be "a gold coin or a \$5.00 note"), and is organising salads and sweets with selected members.

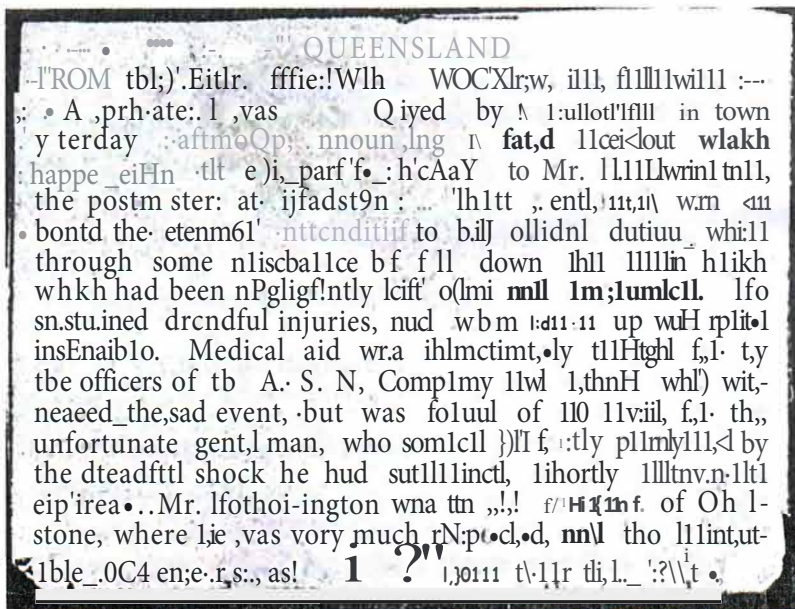
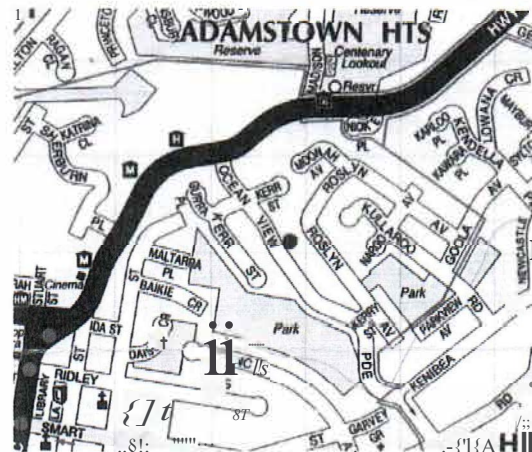
So all that you have to bring along, apart from yourself and your partner (and your pink note), is "something of interest which you can talk about or about which you can tell a story". No presents.

It's easy to find - if you're travelling north from Charlestown shops, it's the first place on the highway where you can turn right. Travelling south on the highway, Oceanview Parade is past the Madison Drive traffic lights, on the left. Their place is on the high side of the street.

Phone DON if there are any problems - on 4943 5639. . Should be lots of fun.

Gregory's Map 335, G3; or UBD Map 154, B3.

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 2011-2012 festive season !!

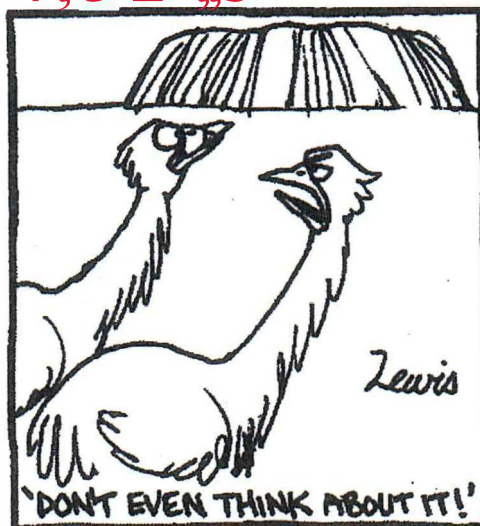


What's in a name?? At FORREST, WA

The Postmaster at Gladstone, Queensland, Richard Hetherington, died in 1870 fulfilling his duties, when he fell into the cargo-hold of a ship he was delivering mail to. He died from injuries sustained in the fall. Where were the Occupational Health and Safety guys, then ?? So it's NOT ONLY barking dogs that are a danger to postmen ...

- ** Pain travels through the human body at a speed of over 106 metres (350 feet) per second.
- ** Summer and Winter on the planet Uranus each last 21 Earth years.
- ** Loud, fast music makes termites chew faster.

4, 5 2-, b



Emus like to swallow rocks.

- ** Some kinds of bamboo grow 89 cm (35 inches) in one day.
- ** The only food that doesn't spoil is honey.

'DONT EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!'