

The Golden City Philatelist

**BENDIGO PHILATELIC
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SEPTEMBER 2016

now in our 86th year

Greetings Members & Friends of the Society!

Welcome to two new members; John Harbour & Clarence Farrow. Please make them feel welcome.

At the last meeting, we trialled some changes in the Auction procedure with the use of a computer to track buying and selling. Intending Buyers will now need a number and this will be recorded against their name for ease of settlement with the Treasurer. This was run in parallel with the manual system and apart from a couple of minor hiccups worked reasonably well. We will do it a few more times before deciding whether to adopt.

Membership Subscriptions Now Due!

The **Annual Membership Subscription** is **NOW DUE** with Adult/Families \$20.00 and Juniors \$2.00. *Please* see the Treasurer at your earliest convenience. For members unable to attend the meeting, please forward a cheque made out to the:

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC.

and mail to: **P.O. BOX 962, BENDIGO, VIC. 3550**

Diary of Future Events

2016

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|-------------|---------|--|
| September 6 | Tuesday | – Display by John Armstrong |
| October 4 | Tuesday | – Panel Discussion |
| TBA | | – Visit to Maryborough Club |
| November 1 | Tuesday | – Club Annual Competitions ~ NO AUCTION |
| December 6 | Tuesday | – Christmas Eats and Mammoth auction |

2017

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|------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| January 3 | Tuesday | – Stamps of 1917 |
| February 7 | Tuesday | – Member Display by Libby Luke |
| March 7 | Tuesday | – What is in the Club Library? |
| TBA | | – Visit to St Arnaud Club |
| April 4 | Tuesday | – Member Display by Roman Lemega |

The general monthly meetings of the Bendigo Philatelic Society are held 7.30pm at “Kalianna”, 200 Nolan St., Bendigo.

Auctions will be held at all meetings **EXCEPT JULY, NOVEMBER** and **MAY**
5 items per member are allowed for auctions **except in December** when
10 items per member are allowed for the Christmas bonanza.

Exchange sheets will be circulated at all meetings.

President's message September 2016

Spies inform me that The Fair went well. Excellent effort by all concerned.

I have had a very quiet stamping holiday just doing a few exchange sheets but not visiting any stamp meeting or fairs. However, you will find out about philately on The Sunshine Coast as Libby Luke has been very actively pursuing her love of stamps whilst on the Coast.

This September meeting will be a busy affair. Firstly, we have to finish off our AGM with the presentation of the financial reports for 2015/16.

Secondly we will be trialling a new auction method. Please treat it positively.

Thirdly...but I am sure it will be a gold medal presentation John Armstrong will be showing us some of his collection. John always has some interesting items.

Speaking of gold medals. Australia won 8 and by my calculations that means that to date since 1 January 2016 the Post Office has issued 65 \$1 stamps not counting peel and stick variety. Has any member attempted to collect them used on normal mail?

At our October meeting we have planned a "Panel Discussion". This is a new idea and to make it work we need YOU the MEMBERS to think of something for the panel to discuss. It is not a debate or argument but an attempt to use the combined knowledge bank of our members for the benefit of all. The Panel may include any of you as I doubt any one member can answer questions about issues from Aden to Zululand.

November is the annual Club competition night. Please make an effort to take part.

I am pleased to say that my wife Patti is making a steady recovery from her bowel cancer operation.

As usual ... keep those tweezers twinkling and hinges licked on your exchange sheets.

David

Bogus countries and their stamps No. 3 ~ Clipperton Island

Home to large numbers of birds, immense deposits of guano and infested by millions of poisonous crabs, Clipperton Island, named for John Clipperton, an English pirate, is a small speck in the Pacific Ocean, about 700 miles southwest of Acapulco, Mexico.

The Island has been claimed at various times by France, Mexico and the United States. After the US gave up its claim, the King of Italy arbitrated a dispute between France and Mexico. In 1931, he gave the island to France.

Formerly part of French Polynesia, Clipperton Island is now administered directly from Paris. If you are looking for a collecting focus that has tales of pirates, buried treasure, murder, death by starvation, slavery, no permanent residents, no drinkable water and no harbors, then Clipperton



Island is the place for you.

Around 1895 the Organic Phosphate Company of San Francisco began to mine the guano. They authorized their agent the W. Frese Company, to prepare a set of 10 local stamps, which were to be used as postage on mail between the mining operation and the United States.

Printed in denominations from one cent to one dollar, the stamps showed a map of the island with the year in the centre, as well as birds and lobsters.

The \$1 value was to be for express mail. It was totally useless, since the only communication between the island and the mainland was by ship.

The Stamps were widely condemned as an attempt to exploit collectors. Covers appeared with both Clipperton Island stamps and regular U.S. postage – all cancelled in San Francisco.



It is unclear whether these covers originated on Clipperton Island or were prepared in San Francisco as philatelic souvenirs.

During the period of Mexican interest in the island, an audacious individual, using a rubber stamp over-printed Mexican stamps with the name of the island. They are known with both diagonal and horizontal overprints, usually on top of the cancellation.

There are other types of overprints on Mexican stamps, all completely bogus. There are also French stamps overprinted "Ile Clipperton" which are also fake.

The history of Clipperton Island includes bizarre stories of murder, slavery and other forms of human misbehaviour; its use as a weather and observation post in World War II; visits by an American president and its use as a research station. Amateur radio enthusiasts have invaded the island, setting up temporary broadcast facilities. Jacques Cousteau made a documentary about the island in 1980. There is also a spectacular series of collector coins from France that features the map of Clipperton Island and fish.



Next: Caldey Island

Bob H

Annual Stamp Fair

The Annual Stamp Fair was held on Saturday the 13th August 2016 at St Andrew's Church Hall in Myers St. Thank you to the members who turned up to help set up on the Friday afternoon before and helped with the activities on the Saturday. It appears there may have been over 200 attendees and were well pleased with the offerings by the dealer/sellers (and the dealers also seemed happy with the response). There were folk from as far as Ballarat, Bright, Canberra, Castlemaine, Charlton, Drummond, Echuca, Geelong, Harcourt, Hamilton, Heathcote, Inglewood, Kerang, Kilmore, Kyneton, Leitchville, Lethbridge, Lockington, Maryborough, Melbourne, Methoura, Mia Mia, Mildura, Moe, Newstead, Pakenham, Rochester, St Arnaud, Shepparton, Traralgon, Wallan, Wangaratta, Warragul and Warrnambool. Bendigo and surrounds included: Colbinabbin, Eaglehawk, Elmore, Golden Square, Kangaroo Flat, Junortoun, Kennington, Strathdale and Strathfieldsay. The advertising was a wide spread thorough the T.V., Bendigo Advertiser, Bendigo Weekly, R.A.C.V. magazine, Australia Post Stamp Bulletin & the Post Offices, Zoom Magazine, our monthly Newsletter & Flyer, Coin & Stamp Shops, 3BO Radio, ABC Radio, KLFM Radio, word of

mouth, our members, letters, regular visitor, Web/Internet/Facebook, Stampboards (Internet), etc was pleasing. A few comments here from Stampboards:

"I basically spent the day at one dealer trawling through his postmarks. There was a short break when I had to get some more cash."

"Had a great day, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. I picked up a few nice postmarks. The day was a credit to the organizers. Everyone involved should take a bow."

"Had a great time spent about 5 hours there. My son may have been sitting with the postmark guys unknowing they were stampboard members. Probably one of the best stamp fairs we have attended. Well done to the organizers."

Stamp Collecting in Southern Queensland by Libby Luke

Having spent 4 weeks on Queensland's Sunshine Coast I would now like to give a precise of our time with the Philatelic community here.

Our introduction was on the night of our arrival with a visit to the Nambour Stamp Club. We enjoyed a most friendly and interesting evening with a very informative lecture and display on Stamps from Norfolk Island. The presenter was from Brisbane and the point he made was: If you are starting out in Philately, places like Norfolk Island are a great country to collect, reasonably inexpensive with a great chance of completing, or nearly so, of this country's issues.

Caboolture's Stamp Fair was held this year in the Community Centre at Beerwah. This delightful building (about the size of St. Andrews Hall) is situated next to the Local Library surrounded by lovely wetlands and a lot of local wildlife. Add to this, a beautiful park and you have idyllic conditions. Catering was homemade treats and was first class.

Five dealers were in attendance but the major sales were from the Southern Queensland Societies who all had wonderful stands with stock well displayed and reasonably priced. The numbers of Philatelists in attendance was excellent.

We arrived at 8:30am to find the car park nearly filled. However, by 2:30pm most were leaving. We were most impressed by the Boxed Auction which we should discuss for our future Stamp Fairs.

Caloundra Stamp Club thrives on its Exchange sheets which were fantastic, designated by country, indexed and in copious quantities. A collector's delight.

We were made so welcome by members of all Societies and were impressed that all had new members to welcome.

Nambour Club asked both Tom and I to say a few words about the Bendigo Philatelic Society.

I leave here having had a lot of fun, met many lovely people, a little poorer in pocket but with many gaps in my collection now filled.

Libby Luke.

**WHILE WE WERE
SLAVING AWAY AT
THE STAMP FAIR !**

**(THESE SLACKERS ON
THE SUNSHINE COAST
..... ???)**

