

# The Golden City Philatelist

**BENDIGO PHILATELIC  
SOCIETY INC. A0016241J  
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**OCTOBER 2016**

*now in our 86<sup>th</sup> year*



## Vale

It is with great sadness that we report that late afternoon on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, our dear friend and hard-working colleague, **Roman Lemega**, collapsed and passed away. Lurleen was with him at the time.

“Sadly One of our friends has departed ~ To help our sadness with respect ~ Go outside and look ~ The night sky is ablaze ~ Concentrate, pick a star ~ And name it **ROMAN!!** (member contribution)

Just received: Funeral will be held at the Baptist Community Centre in Junortoun, on Monday October 3rd, at 1:30pm. To be interred at the Bendigo Lawn Cemetery.

## Diary of Future Events

### 2016

October 4 Tuesday – Panel Discussion

October 11 Tuesday – Visit to Maryborough Club (Auction List available) –

7pm inspection. 7.40 – 8.20 auction. 8.30 – 9pm supper. 9.00 – 9.30 talks/displays by Bendigo PS members. 9.30 settling accounts for auction lots.

November 1 Tuesday – Club Annual Competitions ~ **NO AUCTION**

December 6 Tuesday – Christmas Eats and Mammoth auction

### 2017

January 3 Tuesday – Stamps of 1917

February 7 Tuesday – Member Display by Libby Luke

Thursday March 30 to Sunday April 2 – **Melbourne 2017** – The Melbourne 2017 Stamp show will be an international stamp exhibition. The venue is the Caulfield Racecourse Function room.

- 60 dealer tables
- 1400 frames of exhibits ~ [www.melbourne2017.com.au](http://www.melbourne2017.com.au)

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 October 2016

The October programme says "Panel Discussion". This is a new innovation and we urgently need *your participation* both with questions for "The Panel" and as members of "The Panel".

Why does Tonga issue so many self-adhesive stamps? What was the need for Australia to issue a stamp with a face value of Five shillings in 1932?

Right ..... I have done my bit now it's over to you.

Our last meeting was action packed. Thanks to John A. for his excellent presentation on the engraved stamps of Frenchman Decaris. It makes collecting far more interesting if you study the subject as John does rather than just ticking a box as another item that has filled a gap.

The new auction system worked well and we will try it again in October and the Exchange Sheets keep on rolling in.

Ken Datson was in Elephant heaven when he looked at latest Australia Post Stamp Bulletin. He will have a whole herd of them when he finishes buying the latest Endangered Wildlife issue.

Competitions and Exhibitions have been part of the stamp collecting world since at least 1881. The first exhibition was held in Vienna Austria and it quickly became popular to show off your collection. The Bendigo Philatelic Society continues this tradition and in November we will hold our annual trophy events ..... Please rise to the challenge and show us what you have. We have a Traditional competition and a Thematic competition. Secretary Roman can supply the rules.

Also don't forget The Lois Whatley annual treasure hunt.

Happy stamping *David.*

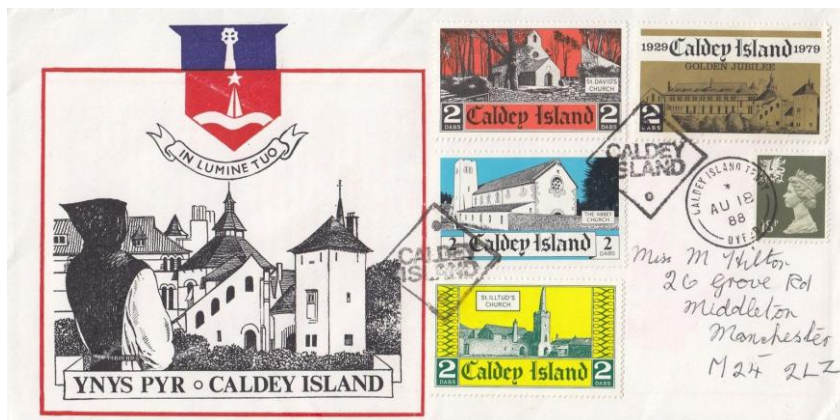
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### *Bogus countries and their stamps No. 4 ~ Caldey Island*

Caldey Island lies just off the coast of Pembrokeshire in south-west Wales.

One of Britain's "holy Islands", it is home to about 40 Cistercian monks. The monks follow a strict monastic schedule, rising at 3:30 a.m. for prayers and praying another six times a day. In addition to vows of chastity and poverty, they also follow a rule of silence. The monks allow visitors on the island and conduct a gift shop where they sell post cards, perfumes, dairy products and confectionary made at the abbey.

Caldey has also created its own currency: the dab, named after



the small fish that is found in great numbers in local waters. There is a post office. For a small fee postal items can be imprinted with the unique Caldey Island "postmark". To facilitate the postal service, one of the monks is appointed sub-postmaster and the monastery receives payments from Royal Mail for transporting the mail to the mainland (Tenby).

In 1973 and 1974, the island issued its own stamps in an attempt to raise funds for renovation work on the monastery.

These stamps featured Caldey Abbey church and St David's church and were priced at 20-dabs (equivalent to 2p).

In 1976, another stamp featuring St Illtud's church appeared and in 1979, to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Cistercian Order, a four stamp set showing the monastery buildings was issued.

Currently Caldey Island stamps are modestly priced, usually less than \$1. Covers and other "postmarked" items are considerably more expensive, \$8+ for a genuine example.

Next in the series – Rattlesnake Island.

*Bob H.*

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### *Vanuatu Underwater Post*

Vanuatu Post has created an official Post Office with a difference. It is the world's only Underwater Post Office. Vanuatu Post has created an official Post Office with a difference. It is the world's only Underwater Post Office. Situated within the Hideaway Island marine sanctuary, the Post Office sits in around three metres of water and both divers and snorkellers are able to post special "waterproof postcards". If snorkellers cannot duck-dive down that far, Hideaway Island staff will be on the spot to help out.

During opening hours the cards will be cancelled/embossed by the postal staff in the Underwater Post Office. Instead of being stamped with ink to show that the card has been sent, the Post office has developed a new embossed cancellation device.

Placed on site by Vanuatu Post, this official and currently unique postal location was approved by local Ni Vanuatu and opened for business in May 2003.

Opening hours are posted on the beach at Hideaway Island, and a special flag is raised on a float above the site when there are postal workers in the water. Some Vanuatu Post Office staff have completed their Open Water dive training at Hideaway Island.

Out of hours the post cards can be posted in the underwater post box attached to the post office or taken to the main post office in town. All are guaranteed to receive the special cancellation from this unique underwater paradise before being delivered both locally and internationally.

This new Post Office recognises that the Republic of Vanuatu's is made up of 83 islands and is a marine paradise. The sea is such an important part of life in Vanuatu so in addition to opening the world's only Underwater Post Office, Vanuatu Post has issued a new stamp issue and minisheet featuring snorkelling. Vanuatu was designed for snorkelling, and has countless good snorkelling spots and a wide range of spectacular sea life. This stamp issue follows the extremely popular eco-tourism stamp issue that featured many of the adventure, culture, nature, sport and community activities available in Vanuatu.

Visitors who wish to view the colourful coral gardens and the immense numbers of tropical fish, can utilise boat tour operators that cater for snorkellers as well as "free snorkel" from beaches and resorts around the island paradise. The sport is accessible for both young and old and much pleasure can be had in sea temperatures that can reach 30 degree. Thanks to Vanuatu's Marine Park laws, the protected healthy coral reefs and abundant and varied marine life remain one of the Republic's greatest natural attractions.

Vanuatu Post encourages visitors to literally look below the surface of this beautiful country and grab a mask, fins and snorkel, and visit the Underwater Post Office. They guarantee you will discover unlimited fun and unforgettable adventures!

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<http://www.vanuatupost.vu/index.php/en/underwater-post>

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## *Greetings Members & Friends of the Society!*

My apologies if this newsletter seems a little disjointed. The late breaking news of **Roman Lemega's** passing meant a rapid revamp of the newsletter. I'm sorry if the details are a bit skimpy but some is heresay and some is very personal. As we all know, it can be very stressful period but when sudden and at 64 years of age, it can be a very emotional time. Our thoughts are with Lurleen having lost a carer and friend. Condolences may be sent to:

Lurleen Boston  
5 Baslar Court  
Kangaroo Flat Vic 3555

The second test of the auction system went better than the first. Please help by holding up your number so that the autioneer knows you are bidding. The manual system or recording is still a good idea as computers can fail at the most inopportune time! We are also experimenting with sellers, who is also a buyer, as having the same number. This may eventually give us a net amount to pay or receive? **October Auction - Important:** Bob Hayes will handle the lot number allocation – contact is **bobh@netcon.net.au** or **0407421940** ~ (my preference is by email but either OK).

Our mail system currently seems to be inconsistent. Last month's newsletter was mailed over the Bendigo CBD counter at 9.45am the Wednesday before the meeting (six days). Mine was delivered at our home in Strathfieldsaye 11am Friday; only two days to arrive! Some weeks before, our Strathfieldsaye surgery mailed a letter to us that took 8 days to travel 2.2 Km. – go figure! - *vgm*

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