

# The Golden City Philatelist

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**NOVEMBER 2016**

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

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

Following David's reminder that my appointment as Editor was not forever, it was heartening to have two expressions of interest. I am of the opinion that each office bearer should have an assistant, apprentice, trainee, whatever name you wish to call them, but somebody who knows what the job entails. Apart from the reminder of *Roman*'s unexpected passing, office holders may want to go on holidays, or may be hospitalised or incapacitated in some way. I am trying to detail my tasks & my wife knows where the society stationery is kept. I have also started to cut the records to disk & have passed copies over, although not yet sorted to my satisfaction!

We are also looking for other contributors of articles for the Newsletter. Am unsure if Bob H. has an inexhaustible supply of material?

## *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**

November 1 Tuesday – Club Annual Competitions ~ **NO AUCTION**  
– *Deadline for submitting an entry in the update of the Members collecting interests list.*

December 6 Tuesday – Christmas Eats and *Mammoth auction*

**2017**

January 3 Tuesday – Stamps of 1917

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 November 2016*

As we journey through life one experiences a series of highs and lows. The very sudden death of our Secretary/Treasurer **Roman** who held that position for 9 years is one such jolting low moment.

There is no doubt **Roman** would not want us to have such a shock that we stayed transfixed so we are in a Recovery, Reassembly and Remember mode.

We thank Bob Hayes for taking over Roman's Sec/Treas duties. Viv Martin and Tom Luke have been attending to communications and newsletters. Bill Trew, John Armstrong and Bob are attending to our Annual Stamp Fair and Bill will manage and judge The Lois Whatley Trophy competition for 2017.

Bob, Viv and Tom are going to manage the monthly auctions. Other administrative matters are in hand. Even little clubs like ours have to think of Banks, Incorporation, P.O. Boxes, how to get into the meeting room – we are reassembling our work force!

We had an outstanding number of members attend Romans funeral and many more sent messages. He was highly regarded and several people have asked about how we should remember Roman's efforts on our behalf. At the moment we have no concrete plans and seek input from the members.

I would like to see you come to our November meeting with some proposals that we can discuss.

Separately in this newsletter I have floated an idea of my own.

Don't forget the usually Presidential urgings ~ Exchange Sheets ~ and for November some entries in the Clubs annual competitions. There will be no auction in November but December will be a bumper month where you can submit 10 items each.

Please help one another recover from our jolt and join in our recovery programme.

President David

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### *Recognising Roman – a brief summary of Ideas received to date*

1. That The Annual Stamp fair be known as "***Bendigo Philatelic Society Inc. Roman Lemega Stamp Fair***"
2. The Christmas Auction be known as "***Roman Lemega Christmas Auction***"
3. A Display of 2 or 3 pages on a 3 monthly basis (i.e. 4 displays a year) with points awarded for each entry. Total points added up and the winner announced at the end of 12 month period.
4. That ***Lois Whatley Competition*** be changed from 12 months to 6 months and a ***Roman Lemega Competition*** be run for the other 6 months. Each competition to have 25 items to be found.
5. That on the Club's September meeting each year a "***Roman***" display night be held. Displays to be 2 pages on any subject with a ***Roman*** theme. Displays to be judged by members vote on the night and a perpetual trophy be awarded.

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### *Remembering Roman ~ just a Presidential view*

I am certain that you all have individual memories of our friend **Roman**.

Keen, enthusiastic, knowledgeable, dedicated, helpful, organiser and other adjectives that sum up a man who loved his stamps and delighted in showing his unusual collecting subjects in very precise presentable ways.

It appears that members feel the need for The Club to do something to remember him.

You have the opportunity during the month of October to present ideas on how we can have in our club yearly programme a night when we remember **Roman**.

At the moment we have no hard and fast rules about what we should do however here is an idea of mine just to stir the pot.

Non-competitive evening in September (month he died) each year with members showing 2 pages of items of interest associated with *"Anything Roman"*. This could include anything Airmail, Roman Roads, Roman numerals, Roman candles, etc etc etc ~ use your imagination.

Non-competitive show so that we don't have to have rules and marks and administrative nightmares. If you feel we must be competitive, it would be easy to have a secret ballot of members present on the night ~ first past the post wins ~ Prize ???

We already have *Lois Whatley Trophy* in April and 2 Club competitions in November so I don't think we need any more administratively driven competitions with rigid rules. Just a friendly show to remember *Roman* as he liked to show us his collections.

Your ideas are welcome.

Please bring them along to The Clubs November meeting on 1 November.

President David ~ 6 October 2016.

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### ***Bogus countries and their stamps No. 5 ~ Rattlesnake Island***

Rattlesnake Island is located in Lake Erie, on the Ohio side of the United States border with Canada. It is one of the many small islands in the lake.

The Island has had a variety of owners since being set up as a holiday resort in 1966 by James Frackleton, a Cleveland stamp dealer. In spite of being one of the smallest islands in the lake it can boast the only local post operation ever sanctioned by the United States Postal Service.

In the early days, mail was delivered to the islands in Lake Erie by boat in the summer, and horse-drawn sleigh in the winter. By 1959, Ralph Dietrick, a veteran World War II pilot, and owner of Island Airways, was providing mail service for many Islands utilizing the famous Ford Tri-motor, or "Tin Goose," as it was affectionately known. Rattlesnake Island Local Post enlisted this service upon its inception, adding a little bit of philatelic and aeronautical romance to the story. Many of the 1966, 1967, and the later 20th Anniversary stamps pictured the Ford Tri-motor. The Tri-motor also appears on the rubber hand stamp applied to most mail.

The local post was launched on August 27, 1966. Three rectangular stamps were issued, a 5c postcard rate stamp depicting a map of the area, a 10c letter rate stamp showing a Ford Tri-Motor approaching the island and a 25c parcel rate stamp showing a US Coast Guard boat at a dock. There

were two distinct printings of the set.



The US Post Office objected to the use of the rectangular format as they considered that the stamps looked too much like regular US postage stamps. As a result of this objection the stamps were withdrawn on December 8, 1966. From December 9, 1966 until January 22, 1967 mail from the island did not have any local postage stamps.

During that stampless period. It is believed that some 200 items of

mail were dispatched. During this period it was the habit of the postmistress to write "Fee Paid" in the lower left corner of this mail. Such covers are keenly sought after (valued now at more than US\$100) making it a key item in any Rattlesnake Island collection.

To solve the problem of the USPS's objections it was decided to reissue the set in a triangular format which was quite acceptable to the Post Office. The new set was issued on January 23, 1967.



From then on, an annual set of stamps was issued until 1989, when new owners decided to terminate the local post.

It was, however, relaunched in 2005. Again there was an annual set of three stamps.

The local post continued until 2013, ceasing with the death of Rattlesnake Islands founder James P. Frackelton.

Throughout its history, the Rattlesnake Island local post has released around 200 stamps either perforated or imperforate. Generally, with a few exceptions, most are not difficult locate.

Overall the design of the Rattlesnake Island local post stamps are thought to be of good quality. Generally they show scenery of the island, feature Lake Erie history or the local flora and fauna. There certainly is a lot of interest for topical collectors.



In 2003 as the result of an extensive study of the Rattlesnake Island local postal service John Wells, a retired English civil servant issued *The History & Local Post of Rattlesnake Island, Lake Erie*. Collectors and dealers enthusiastically received the book as it provided much background information plus a handy pricing guide that had previously been unavailable. The book includes listings of the variety of cancels and cachets used by the local post.

A revised and updated edition was released in 2009.

Articles in this series inspired by "Imagined Nations" which appeared in "STAMP MAGAZINE August 2015". Some material used by permission of the publisher. Bob H.

## *Tales from the Stamping Ground*

(FROM THE MEMOIRS OF VIV MARTIN)

### *THE AUCTIONEER'S LOT*

For supplies of stamps for re-sale, I often attended the stamp auctions conducted by The Royal Philatelic Society when they were located at Avoca St., South Yarra. As I have heard repeated again just recently, knowledge is power and many desirable items were purchased from this source for my trading purposes. When the final successful bid was reached at an auction, the auctioneer would ask for the bidders' initials and these were recorded against the lot to collect payment when the auction was finished. This particular day, the successful bidder volunteered "VD" but the auctioneer remembered that there was an early successful bidder with the same initials and he exclaimed, "I'm sorry but I already have VD." This caused a great deal of hilarity and the second bidder had to choose something different for his participation in the auction. Needless to say, very soon afterwards, at future auctions, registered bidders were issued with numbered cards to hold up when bidding!

### *What Denomination?*

A blonde goes to the post office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. She says to the clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps?"

The clerk says, "What denomination?"

The blonde says, "God help us, Has it come to this? Give me 6 Catholic, 12 Presbyterian, 10 Lutheran and 22 Baptists."