

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 87th year

July 2017



Diary of Future Events

July 4	Tuesday	President's Display - Annual General Meeting - <u>No Auction Tonight</u>
July 5	Wednesday	Daytime meeting
August 1	Tuesday	All members one sheet display on their favourite topic
August 2	Wednesday	Daytime meeting
August 12	Saturday	Bendigo Stamp Fair
September 5	Tuesday	All members non-competitive 2 page display on a "Roman" theme.
September 6	Wednesday	Daytime Meeting
TBA		Visit to Maryborough

Don't Forget! Tuesday meetings are at a new venue.

While the renovations at Kalianna are underway, the Bendigo Philatelic Society main meetings will be at:

California Gully Mechanics Institute Hall

8 - 12 School Street, California Gully 3556

Wednesday daytime meetings will be still at Golden Square Hall.



Our new home!

July meeting is our AGM

All positions are declared vacant each year so it is important that you come along and vote for the new? officers and committee. One important issue will also be addressed at the AGM. The surprise move to the new venue has meant an unavoidable increase in costs to the club of around \$840 per year. The outgoing committee discussed this and were of the opinion that the best way to deal with this would be an increase in subscriptions but this will need to be agreed to by the members at the AGM. We have been lucky to have a rent free venue for a long time, the envy of many other clubs and associations but all good things must end, they say.

June Syllabus item - Philatelic Quiz

Won by David Cotton with 16 of the 20 questions correct. The associated lucky draw went to David Salter. The June Special Effort was won by Viv Martin. The prize of a 16 page Stock book, donated by the Secretary, raised \$18 for the clubs coffers.

The Stamp Fair is nearly upon us. Win a \$25 fair voucher!

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since the last fair, until you stop and think of all that has happened to the club since then and the many changes that have taken place. Nevertheless, by the time you read this it will be only about six weeks until our next fair and to help promote it, this month's newsletter contains a competition with a prize of a twenty five dollar voucher to spend at the fair. The winner will be announced at our August meeting. Rules and the competition are on page two and three of this newsletter.

The general monthly meetings of the BPS are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at **California Gully Mechanics Institute Hall, 8 - 12 School St, California Gully**
Extra Daytime Meeting 1st Wed at Golden Square.

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

Exchange sheets will be circulated at all meetings.

CLUB CONTACTS:

President: *Libby Luke*

Secretary/Treasurer: *Bob Hayes*
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Newsletter Editor: *John Armstrong*
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President's message July 2017

Another year has come and gone and this month will see our Annual General Meeting another good year for the Society.

Now we approach a new Financial year full of hope and enthusiasm commencing with our Annual General Meeting at our new Venue. Our new Venue was necessary following the forthcoming demolition and reconstruction of Kalianna Special School our home of many years.



Future meetings will now be held at the California Gully Mechanics Institute Hall 8 - 12 School Street, California Gully 3556. 7.30 - 11 pm First Tuesday in each month.



Last month saw the final of the Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt and for the first time ever we had a tie. Congratulations to David Cotton and Ken Datson worthy winners.

Moving all our gear from Kalianna has been accomplished by our dedicated member Jim Garden. We all appreciate your sterling effort Jim. THANK YOU.

Now of course all efforts are being channeled into preparation and advertising for our Annual Stamp Fair on the 12th August. We are pleased all Dealers sites are booked out, a wonderful response. Flyers for you to distribute advertising the Stamp Fair will be available at the July Meeting. Help us by distributing these.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 4th July at our new Venue...Libby.

2017 Stamp Fair Competition

As you may have read last month, your newsletter editor recently turned seventy. Ed Wolk in Ottawa sent a very special birthday greeting made of a collage of a large number of engraved stamps. Ed has agreed to allow us to use his artwork for a competition to promote the fair, the winner to receive a twenty-five dollar voucher to be spent with one of the dealers at the fair. He has also supplied us with a copy of the collage without all the birthday greetings which some might find confusing. This is shown on the next page but can also be viewed in high definition or downloaded at:

[www.engravedstamps.net/Other/Wolk collage Op5a.jpg](http://www.engravedstamps.net/Other/Wolk%20collage%20Op5a.jpg)

So here are the rules.

The collage is made up of twenty-eight stamps from various countries, comprising a background stamp plus twenty-seven small additions which are fragments of other stamps. Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to identify all twenty-eight stamps. Please Note: The bottom half of No 2 is a repeat of No 16. You need to find the stamp that supplied the face for number 2.

One point will be awarded for each correct country of issue plus bonus points if you can also state the year, which means everyone will start with at least one point from the background stamp out of a possible 56.

Entries can be handed in at the August meeting, allowing about a month to complete your entry or can be emailed to the newsletter editor at jjarmstrong47@hotmail.com but email entries must be received by midnight on August 1st to allow time for processing before the meeting.

The winner will be the person with the highest score and will be announced at the August club meeting. In the case of a tie, the prize will be shared. The prize can only be spent with dealers at the 2017 Bendigo Stamp Fair.

The judge's decision is final.





Collage © Wolk of Ottawa

	Country	Year		Country	Year
Background			14		
1			15		
2			16		
3			17		
4			18		
5			19		
6			20		
7			21		
8			22		
9			23		
10			24		
11			25		
12			26		
13			27		

Editorial: Should we care about pen cancels

As a postman, your editor sees a lot of mail, sadly most without stamps these days. Of those bearing stamps, a high proportion have not been cancelled.

The receiving post office is not allowed to use their date stamp canceller for this as it is only to be used for outgoing mail and the regulations say all mail found un-cancelled by the receiving post office *must be cancelled using a ball point pen*.

Stamp collectors are a fussy lot who will often willingly pay far more for a stamp where the gum has not been sullied by a stamp hinge. This, of course, has led to a thriving industry of re-gummers whose work is on display daily on eBay, for those with sharp enough vision to spot it. Collectors will also refuse to buy a cover that has been “ruined” by a pen cancellation, such as this one. If this is the proper treatment for a cover, should we care? Well, I certainly do!

Once upon a time, post offices had a canceller for receiving mail as well as for sending. Every letter was stamped, usually on the back, to show when it had arrived at the post office as well as stops along the way, thus allowing future collectors to follow its postal history.

These days, time is money and to ask the sorters to back-stamp every envelope, even in a tiny Licensed Post Office is no longer practical or seen as necessary but if such a canceller was provided it could be used for stamps that have been missed when sent. It is no harder to reach for a canceller than it is to reach for a pen though I admit it would be hard to keep it behind your ear.

Australia Post derives a lot of income from philately and though that is being tempered these days by the large number of older mint stamps from collections being used for postage, it is still very profitable to be able to sell a stamp without having to provide the service. One would expect that Australia Post would be keen to keep philatelists happy but this does not seem to be the case.

Instead, philatelists seem to be looked upon as an annoyance that will eventually die out allowing them to sell lots of pretty labels to movie or football fans and the like. This is a seemingly bottomless market that justifies the plethora of new issues, many of which never see postal use. Nevertheless, there are still thousands of us and perhaps it is time we made it known that we are more than just a cash cow.

This has happened many times to me with mail coming via Bendigo exchange. Strangely, the person responsible seems happy to let dozens of letters through that have a single stamp but targets anything of philatelic value or from overseas. There is no good reason for defacing overseas mail as the stamps cannot be reused here.

I've had enough and I have decided that I will put in an official complaint every time I receive an envelope like the above with a claim for damages. As club members know, all of my incoming envelopes end up in the club auction so there is a proven philatelic value to them. If everyone was to do this, perhaps, someone will finally listen. Or perhaps not...

The Dutch Post Office recently announced that *all their mail* in the future will be cancelled with a pen! This has predictably caused an uproar among collectors of Netherlands stamps but their protest seems to have fallen on deaf ears. I'm told that the only way that mail can be cancelled there with a “stamper” rather than a pen is to post it from the philatelic counter at a major city. So maybe, things in Australia are not so bad after all!

Terry Clohesy at City Central Newsagency 5 Queen St. Bendigo will give BPS members a minimum 5% discount on Albums, Stock Books, Album pages, etc. and also on a range of Numismatic albums etc. Members must show your current membership tag.

Do you collect Horizon or SOAR?

Joe Wedlock, President of the 'Wanneroo Stamp Club Inc.' in Perth, West Australia, contacted us to ask if any members of the Bendigo Philatelic Society collect either,

1. Great Britain, Horizon Labels and/or Post and Go.
2. Ireland stamps, new 'SOAR', (stamps on a roll).

If any members of our club or others that receive this newsletter, collect any of the above, Joe would love to hear from you. Please contact the newsletter editor or club secretary for Joe's contact details.



Produce this stamp! And that's the law!

The lady at the post office was surprised and amused that anyone could be so annoyed at pen cancelling on an envelope that they would put in an official claim for damages. If she knew much about philatelists, she would not have been surprised as she would have understood the passion that these small pieces of paper arouse in some of us.

The stamp illustrated on the right broke all the rules and required a special law from both of the American houses to ensure its release. It is a fascinating and amusing story that is well documented on the Smithsonian Institute's Arago website - a goldmine of information for collectors of U.S. stamps. The following is taken from that site.

"On March 4, 1948, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a joint resolution authorizing the issuance of "a special series of 3-cent postage stamps . . . in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Turners, which society sponsored physical education and recreation in America."

Acting Postmaster General Joseph Lawler responded in late May 1948. "It has been the consistent policy of the Post Office Department to decline approval of postage stamps commemorating fraternal, religious, educational, charitable, or sectional organizations or groups," he said. "In the recent past, approval has been denied to such worthy organizations as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Young Men's Christian Association, Knights of Columbus, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Other subjects . . . of greater national significance and appeal" had not received commemorative stamps. "There are so many subjects in that category that it would not be practicable to comply . . . and selection of one or a few" could generate criticism of the Post Office Department for "showing favoritism or discrimination." He then broadly hinted at the politics behind the request by saying, "Special legislation is not required for the issuance of commemorative postage stamps as the postmaster general has such authority under the provisions of Title 39, Section 351, United States Code."

Congress stormed back with a resolution by the Senate and House of Representatives that was approved June 10, stating "that the postmaster general is authorized and directed" to issue the American Turner stamps. By June 16, director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing A. W. Hall received a letter from the Post Office Department with an "attached model prepared by Alvin W. Meissner, which has been approved by the president of this organization [American Turners], and from which you are requested to prepare a model for submission to the postmaster general. This issue will be scheduled for release during the month of November. . . ."

American Turners Society? The flummoxed postmaster of Butte, Montana, wrote to the third assistant postmaster general saying, "I received an inquiry today from the Butte Public Library requesting me to advise them concerning the stamp being issued to commemorate the American Turners Society, Cincinnati, Ohio, November 20. Will you please advise us the reason for issuing this stamp and who Mr. Turner might be, or what the American Turners Society represents."

Once released, the stamp met with mixed reviews. Its most notable detractor was Fritz Kaufmann, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Buffalo, who wrote to Postmaster General Hannegan, "I feel it the duty of an American citizen and educator to protest against the growing deterioration of the artistic quality of the United States stamps, a movement which has reached its lowest point with the recent issue of the monstrous stamp in dishonor of the American Turners and this country as a whole. The stamp is a non-plus ultra in the congestion of petty motives and the microscopic caricature of Myron's discobolus. For a long time this country has allowed middle and small nations to outdo us in the taste of their postage stamps Don't you think that the American people deserves better than to be judged according to atrocities such as this stamp?"

A weary Mr. Lawler replied, "The issuance of this stamp was not the idea of the Post Office Department. It was released in response to legislation passed by the 80th Congress, and the design approved as submitted by the president of the organization."

Others responded, "Just a word of appreciation . . . despite the jumble of features, the stamp makes a very good impression in use by virtue of its shape, color and mazy detail." Another letter—this one from a confused Earl M. Turner, who was anxious to know more about his genealogy—asked for information about the American Turners. Sixty million issues were printed in panes of 50 stamps."

Source: <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/research/topical-reference-pages/the-complete-collection-of-us-stamps.html>



Extra Daytime Meeting of the Bendigo Philatelic Society.

If you are unable to get to our regular evening meeting, or want more time to pursue your collecting interests, we now have a daytime meeting on the morning after our main meeting.

Members are welcome to attend both meeting times. Daytime meetings will not be formal meetings.

Venue: Golden Square Hall 9 Old High St.
(Bendigo Field Naturalists Club rooms)
(Behind the Golden Square Fire Station)

Date and time: Wednesday July 5th. at 10.00am
(Then every 1st Wednesday of the month)

Coffee, Tea, biscuits etc, available throughout the meeting.

The venue has lots of free parking, has ground floor and ramp access and is close to a bus stop in High street. Further details if required from Bob Hayes 0407 421940 or bobh@netcon.net.au

It's Fair Season in Bendigo!

BENDIGO COLLECTABLES FAIR

Sat. 22nd July 2017
9.00am - 4.00pm
Bendigo Exhibition Centre,
Prince of Wales Showground,
Holmes Rd. Bendigo, VIC.

Collectables For Sale & Wanted To Buy

Including - Coins, Banknotes, Militaria, Swap Cards, Stamps, Jewellery, Badges, Post Cards, Money Boxes, Medals/Medallions, Tokens, Glass, China, Pottery, Albums, Tins, Dolls, Ephemera, Collector Cards, Comics, Books, Bottles, & Many More Types of Collectables and Small Antiques available.

Lucky Door Prizes Drawn 1/2hrly.
Raffles

Free Collector Packs For Kids With Adults

Entry \$3 ea Under 14yrs. Free

Limited Tables/Stalls Still Available
Indoors. Heated. Hot Food avail. Ample Parking

Held by Bendigo Coin & Collectables Club Inc A0043856U
New Members are Always Welcome

Ph. 03 54430747 Email arpalmer13@hotmail.com (subject Fair)



BENDIGO Stamp Fair Saturday

12th August 2017

10am - 4pm

Local & Melbourne
Stamp and Coin Dealers

St Andrews

Uniting Church Hall

24 Myers Street Bendigo

Free Entry

Food and Drinks Available
Bendigo Philatelic Society Inc

P.O. Box 962 Bendigo Central, Vic. 3552

Newsletter Archive

Viv Martin has been trying to find copies of our newsletter to create a digital archive. October 2004 to present is complete. Before then almost everything is of interest.

If members have copies of any missing issues, Viv would greatly appreciate it if you would be willing to *loan* for scanning (and they then *will be returned* to you).

Please contact *Viv Martin*. Ph: 03 5439 3655 email: vivmartin37@gmail.com

Final Words

Viv will be away in the days leading up to our August meeting. For this reason, the absolute cut-off date for items for the August club auction will be 9pm on the 28th July. Items entered late will be held until September.

The 2017 "Free" box of stamps courtesy of Ken Datson, has begun circulating along with an additional box of stamps on paper (mostly "space fillers" of earlier Australian Decimal Commemoratives), donated by Eileen Lowther. Members on the list are asked to move the boxes on to the next member as quickly as possible.