

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 87th year

October 2017



Diary of Future Events

October 3rd	Tuesday	Member display from David Cotton
October 4th	Wednesday	Daytime Meeting at Golden Square
October 8th	Sunday	Ballarat Eureka Stamps and Coin Fair
November 7th	Tuesday	Annual Philatelic Competitions: Display and Judging
November 8th	Wednesday	Daytime Meeting at Golden Square
December 5th	Tuesday	Christmas Meeting and Monster Auction. Note: <u>6.30</u> Start
December 6th	Wednesday	Daytime Meeting at Golden Square

Please Note: The daytime meeting is on the Wednesday after the main meeting.

Presidents Report October 2017

Greetings "One and All"

For this month's report I would like to reminisce a little remembering that it is just over 12 months since we lost our long time Secretary and Treasurer Roman Lemega. It was a drizzly day in September 2016 as 26 of us formed a guard of honour and the Hearse slowly left for the Bendigo Cemetery.

Many hours of discussion as to how we could honour Roman took place at our monthly meetings. It was decided finally that members would at our September meeting bring along a display in which the name Roman figured prominently.

In all we had 7 displays which encompassed everything from Stamps to DVD's and poems. A wonderful night to honour our late dear friend.

On the 12th of September many of our members journeyed over to the Maryborough Stamp Club Auction where they again displayed their Roman memories. Very appropriate as Roman every year had a presentation at this Maryborough Auction.

At our September meeting we learnt of the resignation of Viv Martin and we thank him and wish him well in his future Endeavours.

We have had a change of Officers with Joy Watters taking on the role of Secretary and Margaret Brown becoming our new Treasurer. We thank them and look forward to working with them in their new roles. We also thank David Somerton and Angelo Verga for taking the positions of Asst. Secretary and Asst. Treasurer. It is always comforting to have a backstop.

Our new meeting place at Long Gully fulfills all our needs and is very bright and cheery.

Keep us the good work with producing Exchange Sheets and Happy Licking and Sticking... Libby.



The general monthly meetings of the BPS are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at **Old Long Gully School (now CVGT)**

Cnr Stanfield and Jackson Streets, Long Gully
Extra Daytime Meeting at Golden Square on the Wednesday after the main Tuesday meeting.

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: Joy Watters

ph: 0439 473 645 email: joysgold2@gmail.com

Treasurer: Margaret Brown

email: mabrown@bigpond.net.au

Webmaster: Tom Luke tomluke@westnet.com.au

Web page: www.bendigophilatelicsociety.org

Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/zb2ma53>

Newsletter Editor: John Armstrong

email: jjarmstrong47@hotmail.com

When Arbor Day became Argue Day!

J. Morton Sterling lived in Chicago but like many of his time, he longed for the wide open spaces and he moved to the plains of Nebraska. It wasn't long before the treeless plains and the endless winds began to get him down but J. Morton Sterling was no quitter and he decided to do something about it. He began planting trees to break both the monotony of the landscape and the winds and soon he was encouraging other immigrants to do the same. In 1872, he approached the Nebraska Board of Agriculture with an idea to declare a special annual tree planting day and thus Arbor Day was born. On the first Arbor Day a million trees were planted in Nebraska and the day was so popular that the Governor declared that it would be an annual event and a State of Nebraska holiday. To honour the man who thought of the idea, the date chosen was the 22nd of April, J. Morton Sterling's birthday.

For 1932, the USPS decided to include an Arbor Day stamp to celebrate fifty years, an innocuous idea, one would think, so who could have anticipated the furore that the stamp would cause. When released it showed a somewhat charming scene of two children planting a tree but then someone allowed the production details to leak out and the battle began. Editors editorialised, politicians thundered, always looking to get into the public eye, lawyers argued while most people watched it all happening with bemusement. So what was the problem?

It turned out that the designers and engravers at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, whose job it was to produce the stamps, didn't have any anonymous pictures of children in the office at the time. Luckily, the director's two children were visiting the office so they took them outside, found a spade and something to represent a tree and photographed them planting it. The engravers then worked from the photograph but they were too good at their job and the children were recognizable on the finished stamp.

This broke a major rule that said no living people were to be depicted on US stamps, a rule that has only been dropped in recent times. Because this rule had been broken by using living recognizable subjects, for a while it looked like heads would roll. Fortunately, the shouting died down and people began to discuss the matter more rationally and eventually the problem was solved. The rule was amended to mean "no living person could be honoured by being depicted on a stamp. As it was Arbor Day and the memory of J. Morton Sterling that was being honoured, the children were declared to be simply part of the scenery and all was well again.



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 meetings. 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 October 4th. at 10.00am
(Then every Wednesday following the Tuesday meeting)

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 can be obtained from the club secretary.

The Dreaded Pen Cancel

Working in a postal sorting facility must be a thankless frustrating job as so many of the letters these days show that someone has taken out their anger and frustration on the stamps. Not content with a simple pen line through the stamp, which is bad enough anyway, lately mail received here has had the stamp



completely destroyed by the power of the pen. On one recent letter, the biro had broken through the envelope and marked the contents inside. Using the normal complaints channel at Australia Post brings the response that they will only compensate for damage to a package's contents and not to the "wrapping". The fact that a cover can have a philatelic value that exceeds that of the contents is of no consequence to them.

For those of us who are trying to attract young people to the hobby, this is a double curse. Not only does this sort of cancellation offend our sensibilities, it sends an unmistakable message to any young person who receives a package treated this way. It says, loudly and clearly, stamps are worthless so why collect them.

On a more positive note, there was great news on Stampboards this week from the KNFB (Dutch association of philatelic clubs) who had fought a campaign against PostNL's decision to replace all postmarks with biro cancellations. Due to this vigorous campaign, PostNL will reverse their decision to withdraw their postmarks and will reintroduce postmarks at all their retail shops. A great feat of the KNFB and all other philatelic associations in the Netherlands for making PostNL reverse their decision! This goes to show how powerful a concerted effort by all collectors can be. Well done!

So what can Australian collectors do? Australia Post still make a lot of money from collectors through their Philatelic section so a Stampboarder suggests this is where the complaints need to be sent. If every collector who gets a vandalized cover sends a written complaint to

Mr Michael Zsolt, Philatelic Manager, Philatelic Group, GPO Box 1777 Melbourne Vic 3000

perhaps he will be encouraged to pressure the AP decision makers. Dutch collectors have shown that we can have an impact. It is time we made ourselves heard. The philatelic section may not be high up the decision making ladder and it is said that they are also frustrated by pen cancels but water dripping on rock will eventually wear it away. A lot of people think stamp collectors are "drips" so let's start dripping.

Sellotape and stamps don't mix!

Have you ever seen an old collection where the stamps were mounted on small loops of sellotape. Over the years, the adhesive permeates the stamp and turns brown leaving a brown square stain that ruins the front of the stamp and renders it worthless. It was as bad as those who used the sticky photo albums to store their stamps which made them impossible to remove without damage. What were the collectors thinking?

These are extreme examples of the damage that can be caused by that sort of treatment but the stuff simply refuses to go away and leave stamps alone. There have been many cases of parcels that were carefully franked with really nice postage which has been "protected" by a covering of tape and your editor has stopped dealing with several eBay sellers due to their over-enthusiastic use of the stuff. The accompanying picture is of a stamp, bought at auction, which was on a hanger stock sheet. The seller had put a line of tape up both sides of the sheet without noticing that some of the stamps were larger than the row height and so the tape went right onto the top of the stamps.



Lately, there seems to be a lot of sellotape being used around exchange sheets. When our fingers still had the dexterity of youth, perhaps this would have been no problem but with age, fingers simply do not obey us any more like they used to. Look around at any club meeting and you will see someone struggling to remove a stamp from a mount that has been firmly fixed. There was one recently where the stamp was put in a mount which was taped up on all three open sides. Then the mount was taped to the sheet with another two pieces of tape. It proved impossible to remove the stamp without damage.

So if you must use tape, which in itself is very useful, please be conscious of how difficult it can be to remove. The best option in those cases seems to be "magic" tape which seems to come off more easily and without leaving a glob of glue behind.

Rant over!

Collecting a “Dead” Country.

Postal authorities around the world no longer see philatelists as a major source of income but continue to sell mint stamps by the thousands, perhaps even millions, for which the only effort they need to apply is in the design and printing. Evidence for this is in the new issues we see these days. Whereas once a country’s stamps reflected its culture, history and pride in itself, now the issues reflect the latest entertainment fads, films and superstars. Countries as remote as Bhutan celebrated Donald Duck’s fiftieth birthday with a set of stamps. Meanwhile, the quantity of new issues and varieties just keeps increasing.

Because of this, most collectors are finding completeness in their country of choice is a fading dream and many of us have a cut off date after which we say, “Enough! I won’t play this game any longer.” Another choice that many find attractive is to pick a “dead” country, that is, one that no longer exists in its former state. These countries have a start and a finish date and so, if the budget allows, completeness can be attained.

Many countries issued stamps for a short time before their postal administrations were taken over or swallowed up by a larger entity. For instance, the small island of St. Marie de Madagascar only issued one set of thirteen stamps in 1894 before being assimilated into Madagascar in 1898. All were the French tablet issues and a set, if you can find them, will set you back about a thousand dollars with postally used stamps being worth more than mint. More exciting would be to find the whole set on cover which could take years to achieve and cost considerably more.



Now, there may be those among you who think collecting a country with only thirteen stamps is a little extreme, even foolish, in which case perhaps you might look at a place like Czechoslovakia. This is a country with a lot to offer collectors. The stamps are not generally too expensive and the quality is good with an emphasis on line engraved stamps. The first stamps were issued in 1918 after the First World War when the country was “created” as a Federation of states. It was broken up and parts of it annexed by Germany in 1938 but reformed in 1945 at the end of World War Two. It then came under Soviet control for a long period but the quality of the stamps was still reasonably high, though the subject matter was often propaganda, and many of the issues were made available cheaply as CTOs and found themselves in the packs we all bought as young collectors.



At the end of 1992, the Federation was dissolved and the new states of Czech Republic and Slovakia were formed. In a world where increasingly states are broken up by extreme violence, this dissolution stands out as being somewhat amicable. Part of the agreement was that the Czech Republic, where the old postal administration was based, would continue to produce the stamps for Slovakia.

Also unusual for new states, the two governments did not hand their stamp production to one of the cheaper private companies, but continued to draw on the talents of their best artists and engravers and produce beautiful stamps themselves which reflected the culture and attractions of their countries. Australia could learn a lot from this.



Ballarat Stamp and Coin Fair

Members are reminded that the fair season is not yet over with the fast approaching Ballarat stamp fair on the 8th of October. The Ballarat club has two special items being produced for the fair, a first day cover and an overprinted miniature sheet. Both of these items are limited to 100 and they usually go fast. Full details are shown on page five.



Ballarat Stamp Club

Cover & Mini sheet sales

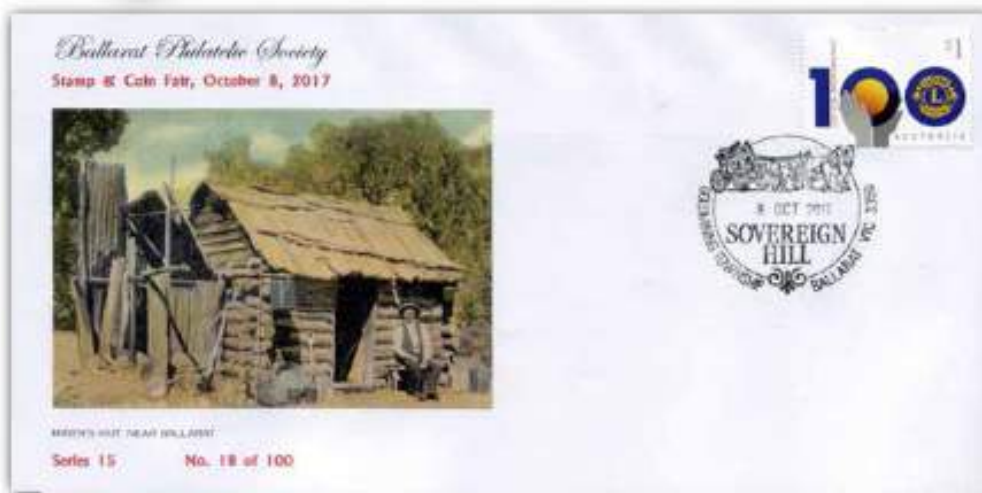
ballaratstampclub.com.au

Ballarat Eureka Stamps & Coin Fair

SUNDAY October 8th 2017 ~ 9.30am until 3.30pm ~ Free Entry

Ballarat Specialist School (Farm Campus) 800 Norman Street North Ballarat

It will feature the following cover and mini sheet for sale and, more importantly, these are for sale to collectors **PRIOR** to the fair ...



Cover: Series 15 of the Ballarat Historical Scenes covers featuring:
Miner's Hut, near Ballarat

Mini-Sheet: Henry Lawson 2017 (overprinted)

Both of these are strictly limited to 100 and they will sell so please be **QUICK!**

Note:

- Orders will be processed in order of receipt with payment
- Covers \$3 and mini sheets \$15
- Allow \$2 for postage or \$4.50 registered
- Overseas clients please allow 15% for PayPal
- Cheques payable to Ballarat Philatelic Society

To order:

- mail: Ballarat Philatelic Society ~ P.O. BOX 337 ~ Wendouree VIC 3355
- email: Peter Morey petermorey05@gmail.com
- mobile: 0435 601 673 (please leave a message)



Normal Club Nights

We meet at:
7pm ~ every 3rd and 5th Monday of each month (except DEC & JAN)
New venue:
Sunways Function Room Enter from:
1311 Gregory Street Lake Wendouree 3350



Ballarat Philatelic Society Inc. A 0012556 J

It's less than a year away! Time to start preparing and saving!



BENDIGO Stamp Fair

Saturday

11th August 2018

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

www.bendigophilatelicsociety.org

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Bill Trew

Email: marj.trew@bigpond.com.au