

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 87th year

December 2017



Diary of Future Events

December 5th Tuesday	Christmas Meeting and Monster Auction. Note: <u>6.30</u> Start
December 6th Wednesday	Daytime Meeting at Golden Square
January 2nd Tuesday	Stamps of 1918.
January 3rd Wednesday	Daytime Meeting.
February 6th Tuesday	Dogs (Chinese Year of the Dog).
February 7th Wednesday	Daytime Meeting.
March 6th Tuesday	Member Display - John Armstrong.
March 7th Wednesday	Daytime Meeting.

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

President's Report December 2017

"Season's Greetings" - One and All.

Where has this year gone!! A year of many ups and downs.

Our last meeting showed three of our fellow members winning competitions. We must congratulate John Armstrong on winning A LARGE SILVER MEDAL at National level at Stampex in Adelaide. This is a wonderful achievement. Also to David Cotton and Noel Earles for winning our club competitions, well done.

We are very lucky to have these three members in our society continually giving and supporting our members and their hobby. In the army they say that it takes thirty people behind the scenes to support one up front and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me. It is amazing what can be achieved when we work together.

The December meeting looks to be another beauty, with friendship, sharing Christmas fare and time to talk to each other about our common interests.

Hopefully we may have visitors from other clubs. ?

Then we have our annual mammoth auction so hurry up and put some lots together we have a limit of 150 lots. This will then be followed by our usual exchange sheets which we all enjoy.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 5th, with food, goodies and lots of spending money after all it is Christmas !!

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:

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Our 2017 Club Competitions

Congratulations to the winners of this year's competitions. Both entries were of a very high standard and drew positive comments from all the club members present.

Noel Earles won the Len Bennet Memorial Open Competition with an entry titled "Something of Interest". As he explained, sometimes we find an item that simply catches our imagination and even though it doesn't really fit in our general collection, we just have to acquire it. He has done this so often, he now was able to mount an impressive display of those items with notes on the research he has conducted on each. When it was suggested that each of the items would make an interesting article for this newsletter, he agreed so although member numbers were lower than normal last month, all those who missed Noel's display will get a chance to see all the items over the coming months - beginning later in this issue.



Noel and David take a break from looking at Noel's competition entry to smile for the camera.



This Danish stamp carried a surcharge for the Red Cross

David Cotton won the John Tresise Memorial Thematic Competition with a display of Danish stamps used to raise money for various charities and projects.

These are quite common in some countries and they are what the Americans call "semi-postals" and hide at the back of their catalogues. Your editor enquired of David why a certain stamp was not included in the display to which he patiently replied that the stamp suggested was from Finland and the display was of Danish stamps. This goes to prove that it is a good idea to look closely at your stamps, if only to ascertain their country of origin and avoid embarrassment.

Australia has only fiddled with the idea a few times and members were trying to remember if there have been any here since Victorian times when both New South Wales and Victoria issued some very expensive stamps at twelve times the postal rate with eleven twelfths of the sale going to hospital funds and the like. The closest we could think of was the Queensland flood relief miniature sheet which cost a \$2 premium over the price of the stamps though we all agreed that this was not quite the same.



The Queensland Flood sheet cost \$8 but only had 10x60c stamps, the rest going to flood relief

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 December 6th. 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.

Noel Earles won our annual open competition with an entry of many varied philatelic items. This is the first of a series of articles from Noel about those items.

Something Of Interest (1)

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company (PSNC).

William Wheelwright, a master mariner and founder of the company, was related to Messrs. Perkins and Bacon. In 1847, the board decided to issue its own stamps, based on two of its ships.

The currency shown is Peruvian. There are two values. The ½oz./1 Real stamp on blue paper shows the “S.S. Peru” while the 1oz./2 Real on orange shows the “S.S. Chile”.

The stamps are imperforate on white woven paper, issued in late 1847 (100 thousand). Other colours and denominations followed but were never used. The experiment proved a failure and no other orders were sent to Perkins Bacon. The plates still exist in London but the remaining stock held by the printers was destroyed in the fire of March 1857.

Peru decided in 1857, because of the growth and interest in mail, to introduce a national postal service. The Postmaster General approached PSNC and it was agreed that the remaining stock held by the shipping company would be donated to the GPO for a three month trial period from December 1st 1857 to February 28th 1858.

The government then issued their own stamps (the “arms” design). In 1860, the Peruvian government destroyed the remaining stock of PSNC stamps. Covers with the local postmark of the period are rare and highly prized.



King or Kangaroo? When a stamp showed which side are you were on.

In these days of almost instant communications, it is hard to imagine life before the first world war. There was no internet, no such thing as a mobile phone, no text, Twitter, Facebook or any of the many modern electronic ways to communicate. Telephones were only for the rich and were extremely limited.



In those days, people sent letters, sometimes waiting weeks to hear news from friends and family. In Australia, a letter cost a penny. In 1913, the 1d red kangaroo was used for letters and although it was only around for nine months before being usurped by the KGV 1d red, a billion of them were printed!

Today, we send a text message via our mobile phones for quick communications. In 1913, this was done by a staggering array of post cards, which only cost ½d to post. The green kangaroo stamp for this denomination was used on over one hundred million cards. These included everything from souvenir picture postcards, many of which are still in existence, to quick notes for appointments which were generally thrown away after use.

According to stamp dealer, Glen Stephens, only about half of the mail carried kangaroo stamps as the various state stamps were also still in use. The kangaroo stamps were a symbol of the emerging working class bid for power whereas the more conservative elements might prefer to use the image of a long dead queen. Eventually, as the political pendulum swung back, the conservatives regained power and the kangaroos were replaced by stamps showing the current monarch, King George V.

Because of their high usage, most low denomination kangaroo stamps are fairly cheap but there are exceptions. While most people expect a discount in price for anything that is not perfect, philatelists are one of the few groups who will pay more for something that is faulty.

In 2007, the fairly ordinary-looking ½d green kangaroo shown above sold at auction for AU\$56,250. Why? When they were being printed someone put at least two of the sheets of paper in sideways, producing stamps with a sideways watermark. We know there were two sheets because the error has been found pointing in both directions. Not many of us really study the humble ½d kangaroo.

Perhaps it's time we looked a little more closely. Fortune awaits!

We often hear that "Knowledge is Power" when it comes to philately. Noel made a purchase this week that proves that old adage is true. (Ed)

Something Of Interest (2)

The early stamps of Victoria called "the Laureates" for the diadem of laurel leaves around Queen Victoria's head were the product of very primitive printing methods and provide a challenging, if not bewildering range of errors and varieties to test philatelists.

This also means that many bargains can be found as most dealers will put them in the too hard basket. An example of this is the cover at right, bought cheaply from an estate lot.

The front is stamped with the 2d. Dull Mauve from the Robinson Plates. They were issued in October 1868 and watermarked "vT" A over crown. The barred numeral of 147 ties the stamp to the cover and there is an open cancel, Clunes Victoria FE 26 69 on the back. A The receiving "thimble" cancel in blue of Melbourne FE 27 69 overrides the Clunes postmark.

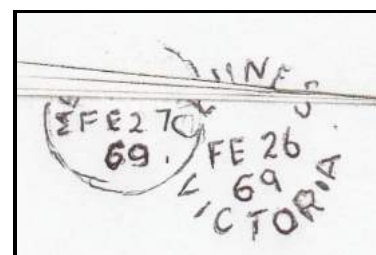
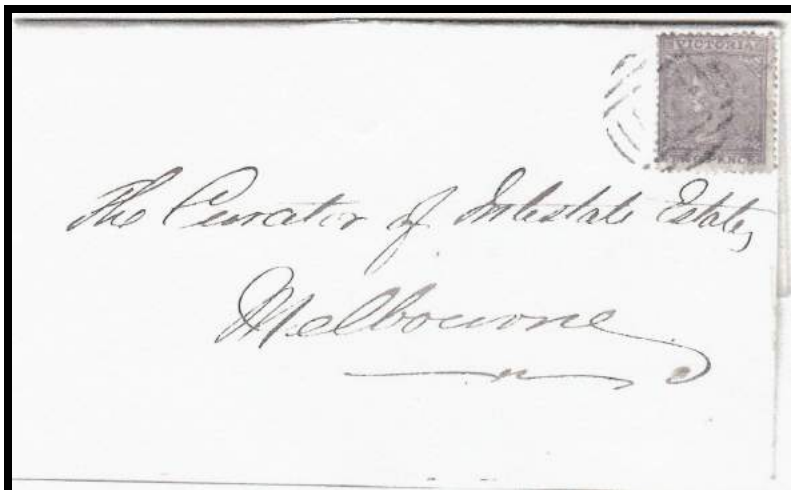
What makes this particularly interesting - and rare- is the variety. The 2d. Laureate has both the inner and outer frame lines at the bottom completely missing. This is extremely rare on cover and may even be unique.

The die for this stamp was supplied to F. W. Robinson, the printer, by Frederick Grosse but for some reason, the die collar was not supplied. This would have held it in the press that stamped the design into the lead sheet, used to produce the printing plate. Undeterred, Robinson apparently used a hammer and chisel to impress the die multiple times into the lead, meaning that almost every impression was different (also allowing future philatelists to plate this stamp).

The lead was then coated with copper by an electrolytic process, then the copper was removed and backed to form half of the plate. There was a wooden strip between the two halves and this would sometimes move, causing more varieties and would need to be hammered back into place. The stamp shown is probably the result of this hammering process and the block, or whatever was used has removed the bottom of the frame.

To make this stamp even more difficult, the printers often ran out of paper and would use whatever they could find, sometimes borrowing from stamp printers interstate so the range of papers and watermarks is also daunting to try to sort.

Making a specialized collection of these stamps is certainly not a project for the faint of heart.



Pre-Christmas Meeting and Bonanza Auction

It is December once again and time for our biggest auction of the year. For this one, members are allowed to enter ten lots instead of the usual five, but there is a limit of 150 lots for the auction. Members are encouraged to apply for lot numbers early to avoid disappointment. They can be obtained by emailing our treasurer, Margaret Brown at mabrown@bigpond.net.au

Members are also reminded to please bring a plate of food to share. The meeting will start at 6.30.

How (and why) did stamps come about?

As stamp collectors we can be eternally grateful to Rowland Hill for proposing the idea of stamps but how many of us know why they were necessary in the first place or why he started thinking about the problem which his stamps solved?

Before 1840, the British postal system was a mess. Postage for a letter was worked out by the number of pages and the distance carried, but more to the point, payment was by the person receiving the letter. This meant that a high percentage of letters were rejected by people who could not afford to pay or did not want to hear from the sender.

According to the story, Rowland Hill was out walking one day when he came across a drama being enacted between a young woman and a postman. The postal charge was one shilling, a day's wages for many people at the time and the woman could not pay that. She told the postman that it was a letter from her brother and pleaded with him to let her at least hold it. When the postman relented and handed her the letter she stood, staring intently at the letter and Rowland Hill, taking pity on her, stepped forward and handed a shilling to the postman who took it and moved on.

The young woman then became extremely embarrassed by his generosity, but not for the reason he imagined. She opened the envelope and handed him the letter. All the sheets were blank! She then showed him how she and her brother had devised a code system of small secret marks which were written on the envelope and conveyed the whole message, a method that allowed them to send and receive messages without needing to accept the letter and pay the fee.

This started Rowland Hill thinking and led to the idea of a cheap and simple Penny Postage system for any letter to any address in Britain but with the postage prepaid by the sender by the purchase of a stamp. This would be stuck on the letter to show the fee had been paid. It seemed a simple solution but many of those in the government were not convinced, believing it would send the post office bankrupt. Hill persevered until he had convinced enough people to give the idea a try and it was an instant success.

The Penny Post was soon making a profit as the amount of unclaimed mail disappeared almost overnight, easily making up for the reduction in postal charges. Moreover, the cheap rate made the post available to anyone who could write, or find someone to do it for them so the amount of mail carried increased exponentially. As an added bonus, strange people began collecting these little pieces of paper, often preferring them to be unused and soon the post office was selling stamps to people without needing to carry a letter!



The first stamp came with problems, however. Designed with an image of the young Queen Victoria on a turned background it was printed in black and generally cancelled with a red ink Maltese cross.

Despite only costing a penny, people soon found that the red ink could be washed off and the stamp reused so the cancel was changed to a black ink which resisted washing. This then made it hard to see against the black stamp and so after just nine months, the stamp colour was changed to red and the Penny Black was no more.

Despite its relatively short life, the Penny Black is not particularly rare as more than sixty million were produced. Fine copies on cover can be expensive but a reasonable copy of the stamp is within the reach of most collectors. The stamp shown at left sold last year for around two hundred dollars. The Penny Black remains either on the wants list or in the collection of nearly every stamp collector around the world.



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



BENDIGO Stamp Fair

Saturday 11th August 2018

9.30am - 3.30pm

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