

# The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 88<sup>th</sup> year

January 2018



## Diary of Future Events

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.

## Presidents January 2018 Message

We have now consigned 2017 to history and look forward to a brand New Year.

We finished the last year with a wonderful night and 45 people dined well on a sumptuous supper, placed their bids for the Monster Auction then quietly spent the remainder of the evening perusing and purchasing from the Exchange sheets.

It was wonderful to have our visitors from Ballarat and Maryborough with us to end an eventful year.

To those of you who missed the meeting we look forward to your return in 2018.

Our Daytime meeting was our most successful yet and we look forward to growing this and attracting new members in this year. For its now successful innovation we owe our thanks to the foresight of Bob Hayes.

Our theme for display at our January meeting will be stamps or memorabilia of 1918, so dig into your treasures and share them with us. Remember this was the year World War 1 ended.

Also at the January meeting we will have for each member a short questionnaire titled "Our Philatelic Goals for 2018". This will help the committee and keep our Society strong.

Like the Windmill Theatre of London who said "We never Closed" so it is with our Society.

This being so we look forward to seeing you all on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Happy New Year

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**

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## Something Of Interest

As promised, we continue this month with an article from Noel Earles on something of interest from his collection.



Above is an unstamped cover to England, sent on August 24th 1860 from Long Gully. The boxed handstamp "Paid at Long Gully" is extremely rare and I have not sighted one before. On the reverse there is an open cancel dated AU-24 60 and transit cancels of Sandhurst (the original name of Bendigo) and Melbourne (TypeA) dated AU-25 60.

*(Editor's Note. This shows that in 1860 mail from Bendigo to Melbourne took one day, a feat rarely achieved these days.)*

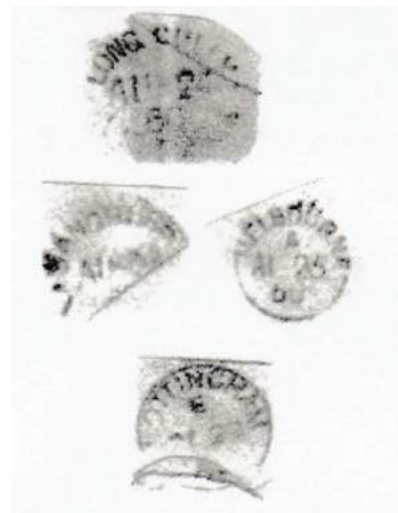
There is also an arrival cancel, applied on arrival at Nottingham and dated 23rd October 1860, just two months later and again, a very rapid time to travel half way round the world in 1860. A hundred years later, passenger liners carrying migrants from the UK to Australia routinely took six weeks and had the advantage of the shortcut offered by the Suez Canal.

The letter was sent by George Wilson Froggatt, an English architect who emigrated to Bendigo with his wife, Caroline (nee Chiosso), in the 1850s. Though both were born in Yorkshire, England, the Chiossos were a noble Italian family. After time in Melbourne, where their son Walter was born in 1958, they moved to Bendigo and in 1860, George became employed as a mine manager. They built a house at 3 Nelson Street, California Gully which is still standing.

Walter was educated at Sandhurst and as he was a fairly delicate child, his mother encouraged him to spend as much time as possible out of doors. He began collecting insects and went on to become one of the leading entomologists of his day, with a passion for ants, particularly the honey ants that were an important food source for aborigines. Ants in Australia provide the environmental service of turning over the soil that is provided by earthworms in Europe.

This small item, as well as having a rarity value philatellically, is also the repository of a lot of our local history. I hope you have found it to be something of interest.

Noel





## When imitation is not a form of flattery.

Not long after the first stamps spread around the world, people began collecting them. From the start, it became obvious that some were rarer than others and the prices people were willing to pay rose correspondingly for those issues. Many of the early collectors were wealthy, even members of royal families, so the price of the better items was soon out of the reach of “common folk”.

It seems a facet of humanity that as soon as there is money to be made, there will be those who will seek to exploit this, often illegally, but taking advantage of the two human frailties, greed and gullibility. Enter the stamp forgers, most of them offering crude imitations but a few, such as Sperati and Fournier, whose work was difficult to tell from the real thing.

To be fair, unlike Sperati, who set out to deceive, Fournier did not see himself as a forger but advertised his creations openly as facsimiles, aimed at those who could not afford the real thing. Things went sour when people began reselling his stamps as the real thing.

Most of us tend to think of stamp forgery as something that happened a long time ago, but you may be interested to know that it is still a major headache for postal administrations around the world. As recently as 2013, a major forgery ring was caught in Istanbul, a city where you can buy copies of almost anything at any market stall. The forgers were caught with four million first class British stamps ready to ship to England.

Britain seems to have a perennial problem with this for a reason which does not occur in Australia. Here, if you want a stamp, you need to go to the post office but in Britain, they are also sold at thousands of little corner stores, and many of these were open to some “special deals”. Some years back, the British police broke a similar ring where thousands of forged Machins had been distributed through the same network.

One astute British dealer bought up every one he could find, knowing that there would be a market for them, only to find that if he sold them in Britain, he would be breaking the law and would probably go to jail. In the end, he sold them all to Australian dealer, Glen Stephens, who had no such restraints and so we saw English collectors buying them from Australia.

It has been mentioned here before that stamp (and coin) collectors seem to be the only section of society that pay extra for something that is not perfect and we could add a twist to that idiosyncrasy. Nowadays, some of the better forged stamps can bring more than the genuine article!

Which brings us to the two stamps above. Within our club and our extended circle of other clubs, we have many collectors of French stamps. France produced the basic stamp above for its colonies adding the colony name in the tablet. Some of these are quite cheap. The two above came from our exchange sheets and only cost \$1.50 each. One is genuine and one is a Fournier forgery.

If you are good at spotting printing types etc., you can tell instantly which is which as the genuine stamp is typographed, has a sharp image and is comb perforated whereas the forgeries are less distinct, lithographed and line perforated. For most of us, this is rather difficult but don't despair. There is a much easier way to tell.



The person on the right of the stamp is holding a cornucopia, a horn of plenty that is giving forth fruit. On the genuine stamp, the rim of the horn is a strong, unbroken line whereas on the forgeries, the rim and the fruit are merged. The more you look at them, the more small differences you will see.

These close-up images are the same way round as the stamps shown above so now, you should be able to tell which is the Fournier forgery. If not, the answer is at the foot of page five.



*One of these two stamps is a forgery. Can you tell which?*



*Francois Fournier*

in

## The Pneumatic Post

One of the more unusual stamps you might come across is shown here. It is an Italian stamp for the Pneumatic Post in Rome. They were printed from 1933 until 1966.

Rome was not the only city to try this method of delivery. There were massive, complex pneumatic post systems in cities like New York, Vienna, Paris and Berlin but many cities had smaller systems as well. Italy seems to have been the only place where they issued special stamps.

Perhaps, we should go back a bit and look at what led to the need for such a system in the first place.

At the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, cities were growing faster than the facilities needed for them to run smoothly. The booming population led to an exponential growth in traffic as thousands of wagons delivered goods every day. Apart from the traffic jams, this brought a whole variety of problems, for instance, the city of New York shipped 60,000 tons of horse manure, scraped from the roads, out to the surrounding countryside every week. This is why people thought that the motor car, which produced no manure, would save the environment from collapse.



Getting mail between the various post offices became a nightmare and so the pneumatic post was conceived. In a system similar to the subway railway system, pipes were laid underground connecting the various post offices. A canister, about the size of a large food can that fitted snugly within the pipe carried the mail and was fired between the two ends by compressed air. They travelled at about thirty miles an hour which was far faster than any horse could deliver, even without the traffic.

The scale of some of the systems, as these pictures show was quite staggering and represented a magnificent feat of engineering.

Eventually, maintenance issues, war damage and changes within the postal system, such as the relocation of post offices, brought their demise and by the 1980s most had gone. Today, only Prague is said to still have a few of the lines still in operation. Another reason to visit that beautiful city!



## **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 January 3rd. 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.





# 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.bendigophilatelicociety.org](http://www.bendigophilatelicociety.org)

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Bill Trew

Email: [marj.trew@bigpond.com.au](mailto:marj.trew@bigpond.com.au)

The Fournier forgery is the stamp from Mayotte on the right.