

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 88th year

February 2018



Diary of Future Events

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.
April	3rd Tuesday	Commonwealth Games.
April	4th Wednesday	Daytime Meeting.

Please Note: The daytime meeting is on the Wednesday after the main meeting. This is not always the first Wednesday of the month

President's February 2018 Message

With January now behind us we can report on another very successful month. Our monthly meetings saw 29 members at the night meeting and 12 members at the Wednesday Day meeting.

Our membership continues to grow and we welcome 2 new members.

At our last meeting we gave to all members a very short survey on suggestions for improving the club. Thank you to the 10 members who returned theirs and we ask that all members return same at February meeting. Only then can your committee discuss and help to further improve our club !!

Several members showed us their excellent display of the stamps of 1918 a century ago and this month members displays will feature stamps showing dogs as this will be the Chinese Year of the dog.

We have had an excellent donation of a stamp collection from Bronwyn Tweed and we entered some of them in our monthly Auction. All proceeds will go towards the club funds and help with our finances. There will be further lots in February's auction and we again thank Bronwyn for her generosity. These stamps were the collection from her late Father a well known and respected Bendigo business man.

Do not forget that Exchange sheets are the life blood of our club so let us all endeavour to produce some each month. To quote our IPP "LICKING AND STICKING" !!!

Best wishes...Libby.



An important message from our treasurer

Margaret will not be available at the end of January so anyone wishing to add items to the February auction must contact her and receive lot numbers no later than 26th January.

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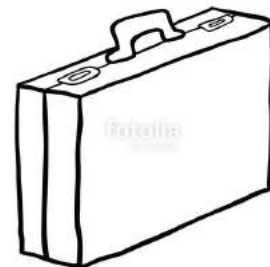
Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/zb2ma53>

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The Cops Have This Case In Hand!

One of our members had a strange tale to tell at the January meeting. He had prepared some packets of stamps for the Christmas auction and placed them in his briefcase in the car. Unfortunately, his car was later stolen along with all the contents, including the stamps. Eventually came the usual business of dealing with the insurance companies and finding a new car. This was all completed satisfactorily and life went on.



Some time later, he received a call from the police. The car had been found and he explained that it now belonged to the insurance company. They asked if there had been anything in it that was not covered by the insurance and among the things he listed was the briefcase with the stamps in it. He was told that they had the briefcase and he could come and collect it.

Imagine his surprise when he got there that it was not his case but an entirely different one. Moreover, rather than a few auction lots, the case contained some rather nice stamps and coins. Obviously, he was not the only collector who had been targeted by the thieves.

Our member thinks that the thieves were hoping that the case contained a laptop which could be easily sold. They possibly had no idea how to get rid of stamps and so left them in the car.

At the time of our meeting, the stamps were still being held at the Eaglehawk police station as there have been no other reports of missing stamps in this area. It is quite possible that, being holiday time, the theft has not been discovered yet but if anyone reading this has lost a briefcase containing stamps and coins, a trip to Eaglehawk police station could prove worth while.

Daytime Meetings on a Wednesday

Your editor remembers the days (many years ago) when he was a professional musician. When “work” finished, generally around midnight, the party would start and the only time he saw the sunrise was while staggering home to get a few hours sleep before the next show.

How things have changed. These days, he’s usually in bed with a book by nine-thirty and asleep by ten! This is often preceded by a nap in the afternoon!

One of the few reasons for a late night these days is the monthly Tuesday night stamp club meeting but he can fully understand those who don’t venture out late at night, particularly in the cold Winter months.



It was for precisely this reason that our former secretary-treasurer, Bob Hayes, came up with the idea of a second, daytime meeting and after convincing the rest of the committee of its value, he worked to make it a reality. It was decided that the most efficient way was to meet on the morning after the night meeting and after the first year, it has been such a success that the funding has been allocated to continue for the coming year.

The January meeting was the best yet with twelve members attending, including one new member. So if you know of someone who might benefit from the friendly atmosphere that pervades our daytime meetings, not to mention the tea and cake, encourage them to come along, or even better, bring them and introduce them around. Daytime meetings are not formal with the main focus on good company and trawling through exchange sheets, seeking that elusive next stamp. New or experienced collectors will be warmly welcomed.

A Pound and a Half

If you are ever writing about stamps on your computer, you may have wished there was a “pound” or a “half” symbol that was easy to find. Well, there is but in Windows, they are hidden in the symbols section which can also be hard to find. There is a handy shortcut though which I have pasted onto my keyboard as I don’t trust my memory these days. It has been very useful.

Hold down the “alt” key while typing 0163. Let the alt key go and you get £.

Similarly, hold down the “alt” key while typing 0189. Let the alt key go and you get ½.

Treasure Hunting

January saw a lively club meeting with a very good attendance. A feature of the club auction was the sale of several envelopes, each containing around 200 KGV stamps. These were keenly contested by our KGV aficionados while those who seemed immune to the “fly-specking” nature of KGV collecting watched with a degree of amusement.

Unless you have been bitten by the KGV bug, it is hard to understand the attraction of page after page of seemingly identical stamps but there is a wealth of difference between them for the dedicated collector. Up until 1914, the ink for printing stamps in Australia came mostly from Germany but with the outbreak of World War One, the supply dried up. Stamp printers were reduced to a whole range of inks to try to keep up with demand and this has led to an enormous variation in shades for the discerning eye. Damage and repair to plates produced the various flaws that are beloved of the flyspeckers plus the several different watermarks with four possible orientations gives another range of variation, which all leads to enough differences to fill a rather large catalogue.

One aspect of KGV collecting that, although not a prominent reason for collecting them, is still at the back of the minds of many is the hope that one day, treasure might be found. We are not talking chicken feed here! In 2013, like many others attending the exhibition in Melbourne, your editor just had to see what all the fuss was about and get a glimpse of the stamp which at the time had electrified the world of KGV collecting.

It began with an advert on ebay with a 99c starting price, offering a Penny Red KGV with sideways watermark. Collectors emailed the seller to say that there was no such stamp and, believing he had made a mistake, the seller withdrew the stamp from sale. He showed it to a dealer friend, who confirmed that it was indeed a sideways watermark and, realizing this could be either rare or a forgery, brought it to the attention of the world’s experts via Stampboards. Scans proving inconclusive, it was arranged to bring the stamp to Melbourne for the centenary exhibition where the experts finally got to see it up close and gave it a certificate. It was then put up for sale but the final price was not disclosed though it was thought to be up to \$80K. A second one has since been found, I believe and Gibbons now catalogues it at £50K.



\$80,000?

Another collector, browsing through some purchases on a long flight from Perth to the east in 2012, found a halfpenny green KGV, also with a sideways watermark. These were previously known but still had a catalogue value of around \$30K. This proved very conservative as it sold at auction for twice that.



\$60,000?

So next time you see some of our club members poring over a page of similar-looking stamps, don’t just write them off as strange. Let’s face it, we are all a bit strange to spend so much time looking for these little scraps of paper but most of us don’t have the chance of a find that could pay off the mortgage. KGV collectors do!

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 February 7th. 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.

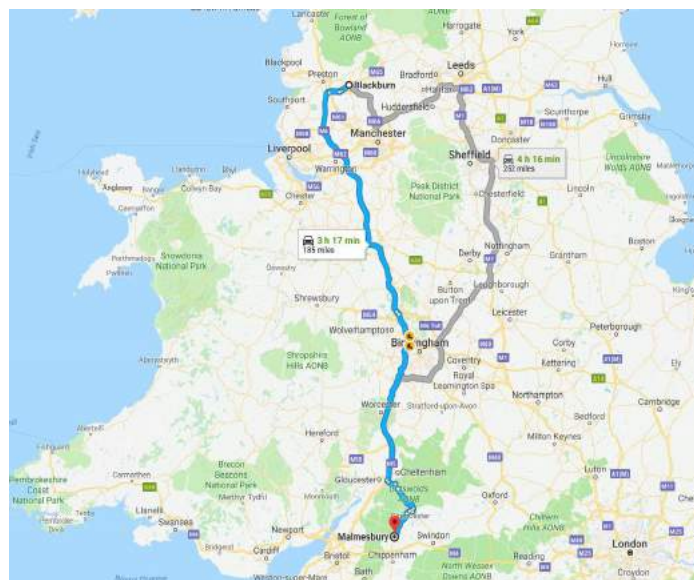
Lost in the mail

It seems that mail getting lost is still a problem for many people. When an important item goes missing the natural reaction is a mixture of grief, anger and complete helplessness, yet around the world the problem persists. Sometimes, this is caused by the sender simply misaddressing the item and sometimes it is caused by the incompetence of the postal authorities.

Australia is well used to the latter with our parcel sorting machines. When these were bought those in charge thought we did not need the software that drove them but could write our own. Thus we saw machines that could not tell the difference between the sender's address and the target address. There were common tales of parcels zipping to and fro across the country before finally being caught by a real person and making it to their destination. These stories are not what I'm thinking about today. I'm thinking about the more amusing ones that crop up from time to time.

Christmas sees a lot of misdirected mail. This is partly because a lot of Christmas mail is handwritten whereas most mail these days is typed and easier to read. I help out at the Licenced Post Office in Malmesbury and every Christmas, we get a card or two that should have gone to Malmesbury, UK or Malmesbury, South Africa. (Our town is the only one without the "e".)

Last year, we had a card that was sent from Blackburn to Malmesbury, both in the UK, a distance of 185 miles as shown on the map. First, it went to Malmesbury, South Africa where it was backstamped and put back in the mail. Then it came to us in Australia where it was also backstamped and marked with UK in large letters. I hope it finally got there but more than that, I hope the recipient was a stamp collector or passed it on to someone who would appreciate what was finally a very interesting cover. More likely, unfortunately, it probably ended in the fire.



One of the news feeds I have on my computer showed this cover which was reported by the BBC recently. The letter, contained the bill for the hire of a local hall in Scourie in the Scottish highlands and was dropped in a post box, which seems a little strange as the destination was only *three hundred metres* away. I suppose there were good reasons for posting it rather than just hand delivering and I'm almost certain that the sender probably regrets not doing that.

The letter took a month, though to be fair, it did eventually get there. On the way it called in on Wales and was then carried on to Thailand where it received the purple postmark. One has to wonder how often this sort of thing happens as obviously, it is common enough to be worth having a rubber stamp made. At least with this envelope, it survived long enough to be shown to the reporter at the BBC so we can only hope it then found a good home.

Source: : <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-42608948>

I only collect stamps on days ending with a "y".



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