

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 88th year

March 2018



Diary of Future Events

March	6th Tuesday	Member Display - John Armstrong.	Please Note: The daytime meeting is on the Wednesday <u>after</u> the main meeting. This is not always the first Wednesday of the month
March	7th Wednesday	Daytime Meeting.	
April	3rd Tuesday	Commonwealth Games.	
April	4th Wednesday	Daytime Meeting.	
May	1st Tuesday	Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt Viewing.	
May	2nd Wednesday	Daytime Meeting.	

Remember! Entries for the Lois Whatley competition must be handed in at the April meeting.

President's March 2018 Message

Autumn is upon us and I guess no one will mind if that searing sticky heat has gone. What a wonderful turn up of members we had for both our night and day meetings in February.

Hopefully, with our new members, we will exceed that again in March.

Early in February in conjunction with another very valued member, I journeyed to Melbourne and visited Phoenix Auctions.

A 5:35am train started the journey to Melbourne and what an eye opener

Prior to the 9:30AM Auction start we had an hour to view all the lots.

This is a very professional organization and the auctioneer moved with such speed we had to keep our concentration high.

There was an audio visual of each lot as it was presented along with the current bid. This along with current bids on screen and phone bids meant one was kept in the loop.

The afternoon train home from Melbourne showed the case and trolley we carried down were a lot heavier !!! than early morning.

An interesting day and one worth repeating.

Don't forget your entry for the Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt closes soon.

LICKING AND STICKING PLEASE to keep our exchange sheets interesting.

See you all in March...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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Bendigo Philatelic Exhibition 2 – 4 July 1951

I write this article as a complete novice my main source of Philatelic knowledge coming from my wife.

To everybody I used to say my knowledge of Philately would fit on a postage stamp, but, married to Libby who was the former “Archival Collection Manager for Australia Post” I suppose that is no longer so.

I do however have a Postal background having spent the first ten and half years of my working life from 22 December 1948 to 25 May 1959 as an employee of the Postmaster Generals Department stationed mostly at the Bendigo Post Office.



The year 1951 was a historic year for Australia, (the centenary of the discovery of gold) Victoria, (the centenary of the establishment of the State of Victoria) Bendigo, (the centenary of the birth of the city).

In Bendigo every event was Centennial !!! There were Centennial Balls, Centenary Processions, etc.

A Huge Barbeque was erected and cut into the side of the hill in Rosalind Park and a whole bullock was cooked for a huge family picnic. People dressed in attire of the diggings era and erected tents throughout the park. Straight after this event the BBQ was dismantled and the lawn returned. Today one wonders what was the hygiene factor ? The bullock took some three days to cook.

A philatelic event was held when mail was sent to Echuca and returned to Bendigo on a Cobb and Co. Coach. This coach was held up in Pall Mall by Captain Starlight (alias Les Hammer).

A three day Philatelic Exhibition was held from 2 to 4 July at the Soldiers Memorial Hall (Now the Military Museum). A Post Office was set up at the Exhibition and most Postal services were transacted.

I, as an 18 year old, was designated to postmark all the first day covers and had to collect a special hexagonal post-marker from the Assistant Postmaster Mr Mervyn Harvey. This I had to sign for and was given a new inked stamp pad to perform my duties. I was further instructed in how to carefully cancel the stamps in a philatelic way and not the way we did it back in the mail room at the Post office (now the Information Centre)

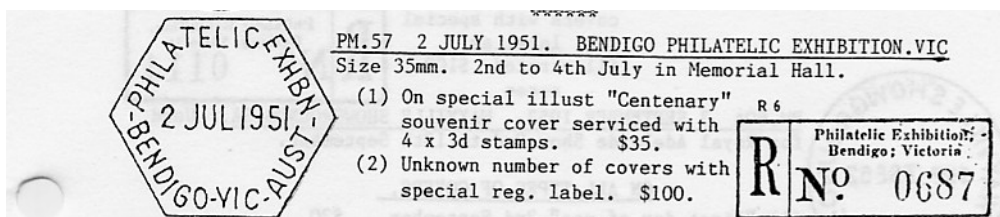
The intervening sixty six years have obliterated my memory of some of the events of those three days but I vividly remember a pie and tea for lunch at Favalora's Café opposite and the sore right hand I had at the completion of the task.

My future life and interests found me querying the authenticity of Edward Hammond Hargraves as the sole discoverer of payable gold in Australia. I like many others including academic notable researchers do not believe this to be true. Hargreaves did not discover payable gold and was not within 100 miles when it was first discovered at Ophir. I believe the true discoverers of payable gold to be “John Hardman Australia Lister” an English descendant and “William and James Tom” Cornish descendants. To prove this Libby and I journeyed to the Orange and Ophir districts in 2004. We came away satisfied in our beliefs.

Their only credit for this discovery being recorded on their headstones. The author has a photograph of these two men.

Perhaps in the future Australia Post may right this wrong and give Australia another historic stamp for Philatelists like you all to treasure.

Tom Luke

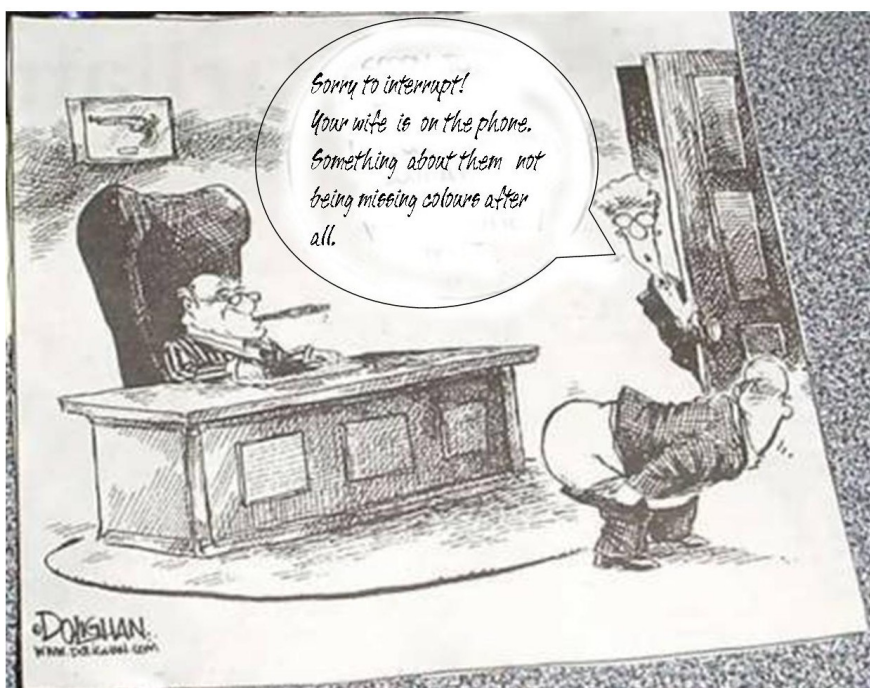


An “Op Shop” Find

Your editor found a discarded box in the local op shop and seeing the multiple Christmas stamps decided to rescue it. It wasn't until he got home that he noticed that some of them seemed to be gold rather than green. Also some of the gold ones had just a splash of green on the tail and wing tips.

He guessed that this was some sort of fading rather than being a missing colour but couldn't quite imagine how it had happened. So instead of giving up his day job and listing them on eBay for a small fortune, he showed them on Stampboards to see what the experts would say.

So here is a summary of what happened.



The stamps were printed, first with the gold embossing and then overprinted with a transparent blue ink layer to give the green colour. This transparent ink is well known for losing its colour if exposed to the sun for any period of time. The stamps were on the top of the box but another smaller box was placed on top of it, protecting the stamps underneath and exposing each end which are now gold as the boxes were left in the sun.

Blasts from the past!

A member was browsing through some very old stamp magazines and noted a few items that are worth a rerun.

PHILATELY FATTENING

UK trade journal, *The Philatelic Exporter*, reported in its March edition that Royal Mail (GB) has confirmed that the gum on a single stamp contains 59 calories, so that by licking five stamps a day for a month would accumulate 885 calories, more than the average portion of fish and chips! Apparently the wood-based gum contains naturally occurring and highly calorific, sugars. All this vital information has come to light as GB recently released its new series of self-adhesive booklets.

NUDE HOUSEWIFE

Full frontal nudity made its appearance on a British stamp in February, but it wasn't on an official issue. It was one of the many "local" stamps produced for private mail services during the postal strike. The stamp shows a nude British housewife, representing "modern Venus". Proprietor of the service said the design was created as a result of a misunderstanding. He asked the artist to come up with "something new", but the designer misheard the words for "something nude".

MAY 1971 OLDEST SOCIETY

The Philatelic Society of South Australia (founded in 1888) claims to be the oldest philatelic society in Australia. Any other claimants to this title?

The society also must be one of the cheapest to belong to as it has resisted inflationary trends for more than 75 years and has only just recently bowed to the inevitable and upped its rates to \$1.50 for metropolitan members and 75c for country and interstate members.

The previous price rise in rates was made in 1895 when the society raised its subscription rates to ten shillings (one dollar), but specified that these could be paid in six monthly instalments.

“Penny Postage 1680-1918” - A summary by Tom Glazebrook

The above book, written by Frank Staff, gives a very interesting account of the establishment of communication by various means, e.g. via coffee houses, hand delivery, foot or pony and mail coach, in the years following the Great Fire of London in 1666.

However in 1680, a Robert Murray and William Dockwra commenced a London Area Penny Postage service. There were 4-500 receiving houses to take letters, parcels etc., sort them and deliver them. It became the Twopenny Post in 1801 with the area reduced in distance to be carried to 3 miles. By 1815, the rate was four pence.

Throughout the rest of the United Kingdom the charge remained at one penny within the local town area. The establishment of a government controlled postal system occurred in the early 1600s, the “Post Master” eventually taking control of the various systems.

By the early 1800s, with the advancement of education, publication of newspapers more frequently and a desire to reduce the tax to transmit them, there was a ground swell of discontent with the Post Office system. The charges to carry were high and based upon distance - London to Edinburgh, 1 shilling and 1 penny; to Bristol, 8 pence. The organisation was inefficient and in spite of loud criticism, the powers in charge ignored the people.

Those complaining were bankers, merchants, company directors etc. The system of “Franking” was very loudly criticised. Franking was the system that allowed all mail from the Parliament or members of Parliament to go free of charge. The members of the aristocracy also had free post (by Act of 1656). Postage payment by the receiver also led to abuse - see January issue of Golden City Philatelist. Members of Parliament were made directors of companies. Their names appeared on the company letterhead, therefore no postal charges.

Things changed in 1832. The Reform Bill granted more electorates representation in Parliament. The town of Greenock elected a young man, Robert Wallace as its first Member of Parliament. In 1833, Wallace made an attack on the Post Office with a speech which called for reform. His attack on mismanagement, wasteful expenditure etc., brought about action. Inquiries were started which continued to 1837.

Rowland Hill, born in 1795 and a schoolmaster, had been appointed in 1835 to the position of Secretary of the “South Australian Commission”, promoting migration to the Australian colonies. He was always interested in anything which concerned reform and public welfare. Robert Wallace’s speeches interested him strongly. He asked Wallace to loan him books and papers so that he might study the whole issue of Post Office reform.

With his three brothers, a lawyer, an inventor and a writer on historical subjects, he studied the subject and produced, in early 1837, the famous pamphlet, “Post Office Reform, Its Importance and Practicability”. Rowland Hill’s very skilful presentation with actual facts and figures proposed (a) uniform postage throughout the land (b) prepayment at the point of posting and (c) the cost to be one penny for a half ounce anywhere in the British Isles.

At this time, a Post Office Commission of Enquiry, with Lord Duncannon and the Duke of Somerset among others, was considering the London Post as it was then called. Both Wallace and Hill were called to the Commission to give evidence. When asked how to give a suitable method of prepayment, Hill suggested that stamped wrappers be used for newspapers etc. This Commission recommended a uniform rate of one penny for one ounce and of twopence up to six ounces for up to 12 miles in London and special prestamped envelopes and covers be used.

The report was made in July 1837 and in November 1837, urged by Wallace, Parliament established a select committee to examine and consider the mode for charging and collecting postage. There was much opposition from within the Post Office and the “Establishment” to the above ideas and criticisms of the Post Office.

Rowland Hill was now very busy because the Penny Postage scheme was generating a lot of work, meetings, reports etc. He asked for assistance. A Mr. Henry Cole, the Assistant Keeper of Public Records became his assistant - a very public spirited man.



Continued next page



Rowland Hill

The findings of the select committee were presented to the House of Commons in March 1839. The committee agreed upon a uniform rate of postage at twopence per half ounce. They recommended also that the franking system be abolished, prepayment by means of stamps or wrappers would be useful.

The public clamour for a uniform Penny Rate persisted. Many pamphlets were published favouring Rowland Hill's suggestions for Uniform One Penny Postage. Charles Dickens supported him. The Penny Postage Bill went to Parliament in August 1839. It passed. There would be a uniform one penny per ounce with prepayment by means of stamped envelope or wrapper as soon as the administration and method of collection and payment was established. Franking was abolished.

After the bill was passed, Rowland Hill resigned his post with the South Australian Commission. He was appointed to the Treasury to supervise the introduction of Penny Postage. The Post Office staff internally gave him a lot of trouble. As you can imagine there was a great deal of work in sorting out the Post Office administration. The penny and twopenny stamps were ultimately Rowland Hill's design.

Paper type and production took some time as did the need to guard against forgery of the product. Supplies of stamps were available on 1st May 1840 to be issued on 6th May 1840.

In 1854, a machine was eventually provided to separate the stamps on the sheet by perforations. That year, Rowland Hill was appointed as Secretary of The Post Office. He received a Knighthood in 1860 and retired from the Post Office in 1864. He died in 1879.

Tom Glazebrook A.M.

Tom has a number of copies of the relevant chapter on A4 sheets for loan. If required see Tom or contact him through the club.



The cheap postal rate led to the development of the now familiar custom of sending cards at Christmas. This was the first Christmas card and was produced and sent by Hill's assistant, Henry Cole in 1843.

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 March 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.



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

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Bill Trew

Email: marj.trew@bigpond.com.au