

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 88th year

June 2018



Diary of Future Events

June	Tuesday	5th	Soccer World Cup.
June	Wednesday	6th	Daytime Meeting.
July	Tuesday	3rd	Moon Stamps Lunar Eclipse.
July	Wednesday	4th	Daytime Meeting.
August	Tuesday	7th	Year of a Clean & Healthy Planet.
August	Wednesday	8th	Daytime Meeting.
August	Saturday	11th	Bendigo Philatelic Society Annual Stamp Fair

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 Report for June 2018

Another month done and dusted and half a year already gone. The warm weather has gone and winter is rearing its head. Cold and wet days!!! What a time to stay indoors and play with your stamp collection!!!

May was a great month as we had 2 new prospective members at our evening monthly meeting. Then at our day meeting we had three members join us from Ballarat. It was a delight to see them and a great morning was enjoyed by all.

We offer our hearty congratulations to our Newsletter Editor, John Armstrong, for winning the Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt. John found all 50 stamps, a remarkable achievement. Well done John. Under a revised set up we will have a new format for the Treasure Hunt next year and make it easier for all to enter.

As the year rolls along plans are in hand for our Annual Stamp Fair on the 11th of August. Any enquires on the Fair you have will be attended to by our Vice President Bill Trew.

Bill can be contacted at: Telephone: 03 5446.9921 or on Email at: marj.trew@bigpond.com.au

Winter brings an exodus of members to Queensland and we have always found a warm welcome greets you by the Stamp Clubs in our Northern Climes.

Our usual request to you all is: More Exchange sheets please.

Yours in Stamps...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.bendigophilatelicssociety.org

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

Newsletter Editor: John Armstrong

email: jjarmstrong47@hotmail.com

Editorial: Some thoughts on club competitions

Club competitions can be fun, particularly the Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt where we have a list of 50 items we have to find. Sometimes, what you find on the way is more interesting than the things you are looking for and I've always found it a learning experience to compete.

As this year's Lois Whatley winner, however, I accepted the trophy with some misgivings. I've thought for some time that members, such as myself, who have very large and varied collections, have a distinct advantage over other members and the results seem to bear that out. Over the last twelve years, two of us have won it three times and two members have won it twice.

I suspect that, in order to get more members having a go at this, something needs to be done to level the playing field and although this has yet to be discussed at the committee level, There have been a few ideas and suggestions bandied about the club on how we can achieve this.

Of the ideas floated, including by me, my personal choice is that of Bill Trew who suggests a simple handicap system, such as is used in golfing circles. He suggested looking at the previous winners and the winning margins and working out what that handicap should be.

Without wanting to pre-empt whatever the committee decides, although I suppose I am doing just that in a way, I looked at Bill's idea, particularly as it applied to my own wins. It seems to me that if you have won Lois Whatley before, you should attract a handicap of ten points for the first win plus an extra five for each subsequent win. As a three time winner, that would put me on a handicap of twenty points so my score of eighty this year would be reduced to sixty. Funnily enough, this year I would still have won by a point or two but it would have been close.

This year, David and Ken have put together a list that should be possible for any of us to put together a winning entry. However the committee decides to amend the scoring, you will have a good chance to win so why not give it a go? It really is good fun.



The Generation Gap Explained



Young generation spending time with friends.



Older generation spending time with friends.

When The Royals Didn't Visit Australia

Staunch republicans probably shook their heads at the enthusiastic welcome given to Prince Charles recently when he visited Australia but it seems that a lot of us can't wait for a chance to wave a flag and shout, "Hooray!" when any member of the Royal Family pays us a call down under. From 1949 to 1952, however, there was one group of Australians who were probably getting a little bit frustrated at what royal visits, or the lack thereof, were doing to their sanity. These were the makers of Australia's postage stamps.



It all started when it was announced that King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by Princess Margaret, would visit Australia in 1949. Needless to say, this meant that a commemorative stamp would be produced for the occasion. Photographs of the three royal personages were sourced from Buckingham Palace and production began on what was to be a pair of engraved stamps, a formal posed one of the King and Queen with a 1s 6d value and a smaller 3½d one bearing a more relaxed portrait of Princess Margaret. Unfortunately, the trip had to be postponed and was rescheduled for 1952.



A new set of stamps was called for. It was decided to keep the 1s 6d stamp which only required a date change and to add a 7½d value using the same design. A new portrait of Princess Margaret was called for as she was now two years more grown-up and it was also decided to produce three lower value stamps this time adding close-ups of the King and Queen to the range.



Again the trip was cancelled, this time due to the King's poor health as he was battling cancer at the time. Rather than disappoint the colonials however, this time the Princess Elizabeth and her dashing new husband, the Duke of Edinburgh were to come instead. For the stamp engravers it was back to the drawing board, or rather to the steel block to produce yet another set.



This time, there would be three stamps, a 3½d stamp with the princess alone and a 7½d and 1s 6d stamp using the same design with both the princess and the duke. This set also made it through to the final production stages when King George inconveniently died. With the need for the new queen's presence at a royal funeral and her own coronation, it was not possible for the Australian visit to go ahead at that time and so once again, the trip was cancelled.

Australia was not forgotten though and after the coronation of 1953 was over, plans began again for a visit the following year. This time, everything went well and the new queen and her consort were met with rapturous crowds everywhere they went. Australia's wizard of the burin, Frank Davies Manley designed and engraved a new set of stamps for the occasion and this time, they were finally released and probably bought by all of us who are old enough to remember those times.



A new scam hits the internet and this time it targets stamp collectors!

We all love a bargain when it comes to stamp collecting, but it seems that some of us allow our optimism to override our intellect. There is an old saying that goes, “If a bargain seems too good to be true, then it probably is.” but amazingly, some collectors seem to be extremely gullible when it comes to finding high quality additions to their collections. This makes them easy prey to all the spivs, crooks and charlatans who delight in taking their money while giving little or nothing in exchange.



The internet, particularly eBay, is home to a growing number of these crooks, making buying there a minefield for the unwary. Unlike the other online stamp selling platforms, who mostly seem to work hard to keep the crooks at bay, eBay does not have a good record in this area. Recently, however, stamp selling scammers have taken to setting up their own, often quite impressive websites, away from eBay but the methodology is still the same. It pays to keep an eye on Stampboards (www.stampboards.com) where many of these scams have been busted by members worldwide.

The first clue to watch out for is the bargain. One recent offering was a MUH set of Sydney Harbour Bridge stamps. You would normally expect to pay well over a thousand dollars for these so how could anyone believe that a dealer was offering the set for under fifty dollars. There have been many other examples. Usually, the images shown are stolen from a genuine dealer’s website. An image for a block of penny blacks, valued at £200,000 was recently taken from Stanley Gibbons website and put on eBay where the “bunnies” pushed the bidding up to \$1200. This was one of 4000 lots offered by the scammer yet despite numerous complaints to eBay, including several from Gibbons, it took a week before eBay closed the seller down, by which time 750 happy buyers had given the scammers what they were really after.

Glen Stephens, who owns the Stampboards website, explained what it was that the scammers were seeking. The clue is in this image, taken from the Stampboards website and posted at right, of the payment form that buyers had to fill in to get their \$46 Harbour Bridge set. Note that there is no option for a secure payment system such as Paypal.

CR https://www.supine.info/shopping_cart/

1. Shipping Information(Same Address for Billing)

Address Details

Mr. Ms. * Required information

First Name: *

Last Name: *

Street Address: *

Address Line 2: *

City: *

State/Province: Please select ... *

Post/Zip Code: *

Country: United States *

Contact Details

Email Address: *

Telephone: *

3. Payment Method

VISA Credit/Debit Card Payment

*Card Number:

*Expiration Date: Month Year

*CVC/CVV2:

Now, I know that most of us would balk at filling in a form like that from an unknown seller, but one has to admit that it does look very much like the legitimate sites where your data is protected. Then again, anyone who thinks they can get \$1500 worth of stamps for \$50, or even £200,000 for \$1200, is probably foolish enough to give away their full name and address, email address, phone number and complete banking details including the security code. Apparently thousands have done just that and shortly afterwards found that their bank account has been emptied or their credit card taken to the limit (which has sometimes been extended). Even lists of email addresses have value and can be sold by the scammers to the spammers.

Yes, there are bargains to be had in philately, particularly if you spend the time to study your stamps and know what they are worth. Occasionally you hear of a stamp worth thousands of dollars being found for a few cents on exchange sheets. It is one of the things that keeps us looking but it is also worth keeping in mind the old adage, “There is no such thing as a free lunch” or perhaps, even more pertinent, “Never give a sucker an even break!” which seems to describe the internet perfectly.

This space is just big enough to say “Happy Birthday!” to our webmaster, Tom Luke on June 1st.

It is possible to have too much gold!

One of the great things about the internet is how easy it makes finding the stories behind your stamps. Albert Decaris designed and engraved a stamp for the 1937 Paris International Exposition and chose to use Dianne de Poitiers as the main subject. You would not know this from the stamp but if you trust the catalogues, that is who they say it is.

A google search on Diane de Poitiers brings up a host of sites, including a 2009 news article about the discovery of her remains and the subsequent autopsy before her reburial.



She was born on the 3rd of September 1499 into a noble family and received the sort of education given to girls in those days so that they could be interesting and charming companions at court. She was a good student with a sharp intellect. She was also an avid sportswoman who loved to ride, hunt and swim and this was probably what accounted for her youthful reputation.

And what a reputation she developed, becoming the favourite mistress of King Henry II of France. At one time she was the most powerful woman in France. Henry is known to have asked her to write many of his official letters. Some are signed by both of them and some by a combination name, HenriDiane. Not surprisingly, she aroused the jealousy of the queen, Catherine de Medici, but while Henri lived, Diane held the control.



Though twenty years older than the king, her fitness and youthful looks made them seem the same age.

She believed that by drinking a concoction of gold chloride, purified with mercury, and diethyl ether, her youth would be maintained and perhaps it did for a while.

When Henry died in a jousting accident, however, the tables were turned and Diane was exiled to her chateau where she lived until the age of 66. She was buried in the chapel there but during the French Revolution, her remains were dug up and thrown into a mass grave.

In 2009, her remains were discovered and were the subject of an autopsy. It was discovered that she had most probably died from gold poisoning caused by the elixir she was reputed to have drunk. Her remains were then returned to their original resting place.

There is much more to her story and her life has been the subject of several films. Anyone interested can find much more about her by an easy internet search. Isn't it amazing just how much history can be bound up in a simple stamp.

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 June 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.



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.bendigophilatelicssociety.org

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Bill Trew

Email: marj.trew@bigpond.com.au