

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 88th year

September 2018



Diary of Future Events

September	Tuesday	4th	Spring, Irises & Edna.
September	Wednesday	5th	Daytime Meeting.
September	Tuesday	11th	Maryborough Stamp Club Auction
October	Tuesday	2nd	A.G.M. - Presidents Display.
October	Wednesday	3rd	Daytime Meeting.
October	Saturday	13th	Ballarat Stamp Fair.
October	Sunday	14th	Geelong Stamp Fair.
November	6		Club Competitions.
November	7		Daytime Meeting.
December	4		Christmas Eats and Mammoth Auction.
December	5		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 Report for September 2018

Written from the Sunshine Coast in Queensland

Well our Stamp Fair has come and gone for another year. Thank you "One and All" for all your work and especially our organizer Vice President Bill.

Now as Spring approaches we look forward to attending Stamp Fairs and Auctions from our Sister Clubs. We already have a list of items available from Maryborough.

I have attended several Stamp Club meetings here and have been made very welcome. The basis at all clubs is the same but each has their own way of operating and place their stamp (pardon the pun) on their method of operation.

A short message this month as a walk in the SUN beckons !!!.

Take care everybody and I will be with you all soon.
Do not forget to keep making up those Exchange Sheets.

Best wishes...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 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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2018 Fair Report

Despite the awful weather, 11th August saw a lot of happy collectors hunting through the goodies at this year's fair. There were thirty seven tables crammed with what the eighteen dealers had to offer and around a hundred and fifty collectors with bulging wallets. By the end of the day, that situation was substantially reversed .

Most dealers reported that they had a good day despite numbers being down this year for a whole range of reasons, and one dealer actually said that he had a record day. And while this writer was happily browsing through the bargain books, elsewhere some very high priced items were changing hands.

As well as the locals, people came from all over the state ranging from Moe, Healesville & Pakenham to Geelong & Warrnambool in the south, Ballarat in the west and from Charlton, Wedderburn, & Kerang to Rochester & Shepparton in the north. The flyers, newsletter, & online were the main sources for those attendees being made aware of the fair.

All collectors seemed to be very happy as just about every need could be catered for by one or other of the dealers present and many exclamations of surprise and delight were heard as someone found a particularly elusive item.

Planning has already begun for next year's fair with all of the dealers we spoke to intending to return next August.





For some dealers, it was a case of as soon as someone stood up, someone else grabbed the chair and sat down



Fair coordinator, Bill Trew, has done a sterling job all year getting this together and deserves a huge thankyou from all of us.



Jim Garden and Ken Datson gave up a large part of their day to welcome visitors as they arrived. This really adds to the friendly reputation the club has earned over time.

Quite

The other day, I saw an advertisement for a “quite exceptional collection of stamps” and it started me musing on the difficulty foreigners have when learning our English language. So many of our words derive a large part of their meaning from the context in which they are used. “Quite” is one of them.

For instance, if you tell me something, I might say, “Yes, you’re quite right!” in which case, I’m saying that in my opinion, you are absolutely right. If I didn’t think so, I might have said that you were not quite right, which is a more polite way of showing disagreement than saying that you are wrong, in this case, the opposite of right. Aristocrats in Victorian novels might have even shortened, “Yes, you’re quite right!” to the single word, “Quite!” to show their agreement in much the same way as many people today say, “Absolutely!” Under these conditions, the words “quite” and “absolutely” are synonymous.

This is not always the case. If I say somebody is absolutely beautiful it does not mean the same thing as if I say the person is quite beautiful. There is a different degree of beauty that is implied which we accept without question. Furthermore if we say the person is not quite beautiful, we are not implying the opposite, that the person is ugly rather than simply implying a reduced level of beauty that could still be very attractive.

What if we substitute the word trustworthy for beautiful. Absolutely trustworthy is somebody you would trust completely while quite trustworthy implies some doubt and somebody considered not quite trustworthy implies that you really don’t trust them.

So what was the seller’s meaning with the stamp collection? Was it an absolutely exceptional collection or was it a quite exceptional collection? If “quite” as when speaking of beauty, it would actually be a not quite exceptional collection. I’m sure the seller meant it was absolutely exceptional but it would really have been better to have left the word “quite” out of the advertisement altogether.

Stamp Collecting and the Internet

Our president, Libby Luke, suggested that it was time for a discussion on how collectors could use the internet to enhance their collecting. There are many websites on the internet which can help a collector, many of them free, though some of which you need to sign up as a member to get the full benefit.

It has always surprised me that some older people, who in their working lives controlled some pretty complicated machinery, could be so reticent about using a computer.

“Oh, yes”, I can hear some people say, “That’s all right for you, you have been using them for so long, you’ve forgotten what it’s like!” Well, I haven’t but I’ll give you an analogy that you might be able to relate to. Fifty-four years ago, I had my first driving lesson and it is still burned into my memory. Within a few minutes of being shown what the three pedals, various switches and steering wheel did, I was out in the traffic on Maroondah Highway in Ringwood with cars and quarry trucks on every side. I was terrified! I couldn’t seem to remember how all the pedals worked together and if I looked down at my feet I’d get blasted by another driver for swerving out of my lane. Yet, one day, it all clicked and for the last fifty-three and a bit years, I haven’t really thought about it. I just get in and drive. Using a computer is a very similar experience.

So for those of you who can already drive a computer and to show those who are still thinking about it what the rewards are, here are some of the ways in which your computer can help your collecting. There are basically three main types though most contain elements of all three. They are “chat” groups, catalogues and selling sites and I’ll give a couple examples of each type but there are many, many more there waiting to be explored.

Joining a chat group can be the most valuable thing you can do. These are discussion groups where anyone can ask questions of other members. I have had online discussions with collectors and later found out that they were experts in their field and owned multi-million dollar collections. Under normal circumstances I would never expect to meet these people yet they find time to answer questions because they are passionate about their hobby and like to encourage others to be the same. Chat groups can be very daunting at first. I remember when I first joined Stampboards I was totally confused by how it all worked but for the life of me I can’t remember what it was that I found so difficult because I very soon picked it up. With any chat group, it is better to just watch and learn for a while until you get a feel for it. If I’d done that, things would have certainly been easier.

There are two chat groups that I would recommend as being worth a look. There are many others but these two are ones I visit regularly. The first is Stampboards, which has often been mentioned here and the other is the Stamp Community Family. Many collectors are members of both. Although essentially discussion sites, both have threads where stamps can be bought and sold.

Chat Groups

Stampboards (www.stampboards.com) has about fifteen thousand members in just about every part of the world and they range from beginners to international gold medal winners. Like all groups, they have rules and that is why it is best to watch for a while to see how it all works. Also before asking a question that may have been asked many times before, there is a good search facility that you can use to enter the main keywords of your question and see what has already been discussed. Stampboards is free to join and has no pop up ads to annoy you. The site was started, and is still financed by Sydney stamp dealer, Glen Stephens.



Stamp Community Family **The Stamp Community Family** (www.stampcommunity.org) is US based but still very international in outlook. Again it has many thousands of members and is a very relaxed site where even seemingly silly questions will get an indulgent and friendly response. The search facility is a bit lacking as it only directs you to the thread that contains what you are looking for but this thread could contain hundreds of pages. Everything else about this site makes it well worth visiting.



*“The Stamp Collector” by Curt Bruckner, 1961
The internet gives us access to information that could only be dreamed of by this old-time collector*

Catalogues

There are many online stamp catalogues and a simple search on Google will direct you to your area of interest. Here are a couple of examples of general whole world catalogues.



Stampworld (<https://www.stampworld.com/en/>) is far more than a catalogue but it is the catalogue function that I have used it for the most. I've found it so useful that it is one of the few sites I've actually donated money to, despite my Scottish ancestry. Clicking on the catalogue allows you to look at any country, by year if you wish. Often when using my paper catalogues I've struggled to find a stamp because only one of a set was illustrated but at Stampworld every stamp is shown.

Colnect (<https://colnect.com/en/>) is an amazing site as it brings together collectors of just about everything. This was the site that Libby spoke of glowingly when asking for an article on internet sites. If you don't collect beer bottle tops or stuffed toys, simply click on the stamps section and you are away. The site is a "wiki" which means that collectors add information to it all the time. Whereas Stampworld only uses its own numbering system, Colnect also list numbers from all the major catalogues for each entry. It also has a facility where you can collate your wants and duplicates lists and matches you with others so you can organize exchanges. There is a discussion about Colnect on Stampboards that will show you some of the uses others have made of this site. (<http://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?f=19&t=79134>)



Selling sites

All of the above mentioned sites are places where stamps can be bought and sold but that is not their main focus. These are a few where buying and selling is their primary function.



eBay (<https://www.ebay.com.au/>) is the biggest stamp selling site but also one that requires a lot of caution as it seems to be the hangout of every spiv, crook and charlatan the philatelic world has produced. This is mainly because eBay's methods for dealing with these are not very good though there are some signs of improvement. On the plus side, the Australian site attracts many local sellers so

postage is kept down and there are many bargains to be found. It is also fairly easy to find your way around. Check the feedback of any dealer you have not used before and if their feedback is negative or set at private avoid them like the plague.

Delcampe (<https://www.delcampe.net/>) is based in Europe and so are most of their sellers which means you must check the postage costs before committing to buy. Some sellers will not post to Australia. Also, some do not accept Paypal, opting instead for Skrill, popular in Europe but almost unknown in Australia. On the positive side, they are a site that take protecting their customers very seriously so you can buy there with confidence and they are big enough that most wants can be found there.



Hipstamp (<https://www.hipstamp.com/>) seems a strange name, but then so does eBay and we soon got used to that. This is my favourite place for looking for a particular item and although it is U.S. based, the postage is usually quite reasonable, particularly if buying a few items at

once. It's a very easy site to navigate and find things even though most stamps are listed by Scott number. The search facility is excellent and this is another place where the owner is ruthless in dealing with any shady dealers. Queries to the site are often answered by the owner himself as he takes a very hands-on approach to the business.

There are many thousands more places on the internet where stamps are discussed, traded or simply shown off and if you are a serious collector it is well worthwhile becoming familiar with what the internet can offer. If you think it is all too hard, ask around the club. There are members who would be happy to help you learn because yes, we old dogs can learn new tricks and while, in the words of Oscar Wilde, youth may be wasted on the young, there is no reason why the internet should be.

John Armstrong

A Piece about Peace.

At the end of World War Two, many countries issued “Peace” stamps. Countries within the Crown Colonies, as they were then, were offered an omnibus issue showing King George VI and the British Houses of Parliament. Hong Kong produced something completely different and to explain why, here is a letter from the July 1946 Australian Stamp Monthly that has since been reprinted many times around the world.

July 1946 Mr. W. E. Jones, of Warragul, Vic., writes:—



The original drawing, was done on toilet paper

“Having read the references in the ‘A.S.M.’ about the new Hong Kong Peace or Victory stamps, I thought possibly the following information might be of interest to you. “The design for these stamps was prepared in one of the prison camps in Hong Kong, during 1944, and had to be kept out of sight of the Japs. The Postmaster-General, who was in the same camp as I was, approached me one day (I suppose because the Centenary stamps had been prepared from designs that I had done) and said, ‘What about doing a design for a Victory stamp and using the phoenix as symbolising the revival of Hong Kong?’ The enclosed sketch is the one we decided on; I am sorry it is so rough, but the paper, on the rare occasions the Japs, issued it, was intended for an entirely different purpose!”



This Peace stamp has a tale to tell!

In January 1942, the month after Japanese forces invaded Hong Kong, an internment facility was created for non-Chinese enemy nationals. Stanley Camp housed about 2,800 people, among them the Head Postmaster of Hong Kong, Edward Wynne-Jones. Wynne-Jones later recalled: ‘As may be imagined, time hung heavily on our hands during those long years, though hope never died. In 1943, it occurred to me that it might be a good idea to have a commemorative stamp issued when Hong Kong was finally liberated, and I set about designing one’. This would turn out to be more than just idle wishful thinking on his part. His design would become one of Hong Kong’s best-loved issues. From his rough pencil sketch in the camp, Wynne-Jones asked a fellow internee to produce a finished drawing of it. William Ernest Jones (no relation), who had been the Chief Draughtsman of the Hong Kong Public Works Department, did so using colored crayons.



This was the Peace stamp used by many countries.

After his release at the end of the war in 1945, Wynne-Jones brought this artwork back to Britain with him, and sent it to the Colonial Office for consideration. A design for the crown colonies’ planned Victory omnibus issue, showing the Houses of Parliament, had already been agreed with the Colonial Office. However, because of the exceptional background to Wynne-Jones’ design, special permission was given by King George VI for it to be used in Hong Kong instead of the universal one. Two values, recess-printed by De La Rue, were issued on August 29, 1946: a 30c intended for domestic letters and a \$1 for airmail use. The design used a variety of symbols to convey a powerful message. The central portrait, naturally, was of King George VI, with a crown above his head, reasserting the power of the

British Empire. Below this was the mythical phoenix bird, which died in flames and was reborn from the ashes, symbolising the colony’s recovery from disaster. A ribbon below the bird bore the word ‘Resurgo’ (Latin for ‘arise’), and the dates ‘1941’ and ‘1945’ recalling the period of the Japanese occupation.

The name of the colony appeared in English at the top, while Lions of England held shields that gave the name in Chinese characters. On each side of the stamps are vertical tablets bearing Chinese inscriptions. There are varying literal interpretations of these phrases, but the general sense is clear: on the left it says ‘China and Britain perpetually at peace’, and on the right ‘The phoenix revives: great good fortune’.

The original artwork contained an error in the calligraphy, but this was spotted by a Chinese naval officer on board the British warship taking Wynne-Jones to the UK, and corrected before the stamps were issued.

A small detail that is easy to overlook is the two bats in flight at the sides of the oval frame surrounding the King’s head. To the Chinese, the bat is regarded as a symbol of good fortune and longevity. W. E. Jones’s original crayon drawing now resides in the Royal Philatelic Collection. On this, the date given on the ribbon for the end of the occupation is ‘1944’ rather than ‘1945’. It’s the only major element of Wynne-Jones’s thinking that failed to come to reality. (Ref: Much of this article is reprinted from the Smithsonian Institute “Arago” website.)

Ballarat Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair

Sunday 14th October 2018 ... 9.30am – 3.30pm
Ballarat Specialist School (Farm Campus)
800 Norman Street Invermay Park Ballarat



- **For sale:** Limited edition special overprinted Australia Post collectors Miniature Sheet & No. 17 of the Ballarat Historical Envelope series
- **Featuring:** interclub displays
- Visit our website: ballaratstampclub.com.au
- Book a table: Neil Petrass ~ 0448 346 499 ~ npetrass@bigpond.com
- More info: Peter Morey ~ 0435 601 673 ~ petermorey05@gmail.com
- *Next event: Ballarat Begonia Stamps & Coins Fair ... Monday March 11th 2019*



2018 VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL

STAMP & COIN FAIR

Saturday 13th October 9am-3pm

Geelong West Town Hall
Pakington St Geelong West
Melway ref: 451 J2

**FREE PARKING & ENTRY
DISABLED ACCESS**

Free light refreshments, Giveaways & Lucky Door Prize

Stamp & Coin Dealers in attendance

Contact
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MARYBOROUGH STAMP CLUB AUCTION 11th September, 2018

ST. AUGUSTINE'S HALL, BURNS STREET, MARYBOROUGH

Viewing from 5.30pm. Auction Starts 7.30pm.

Approx. 200-220 Lots

(including 5 lots of Aust. Coin Review Magazines 1971-1988)

Email: gloyer@live.com.au for full auction list

Contact phone: Grey Loyer 5460 5008

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 September 5th. 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

10th August 2019

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