



The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 88th year

October 2018



Diary of Future Events

- October Tuesday 2nd A.G.M. - Presidents Display.
- October Wednesday 3rd Daytime Meeting.
- October Saturday 13th Geelong Stamp Fair.
- October Sunday 14th Ballarat 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 October 2018

Here we are in mid Spring and our Annual Meeting looms. Come along and support your Society and enjoy the fellowship.

Many clubs will hold Auctions and Annual Stamp Fairs this month including: Geelong, Warragul, Ballarat and Brighton. Make a visit to One or All, that elusive stamp may just be there waiting for you.

Our wandering members are now home or just about.

On our visit up North I visited the Nambour, Caloundra and the Twin Towns Stamp Club at Tweed Heads and was fortunate that at Tweed Heads I could take the Japanese Stamps back to our Motel room. With Tom quietly sleeping I systematically searched the books until bed beckoned at 4:50AM.

Thank you Tweed Heads for your wonderful fellowship.

Our Daytime meeting continues to grow. This is not a formal meeting but a chance to look at all the Exchange sheets and discuss our hobby with your friends.

May I say a big "Thank You" to John Armstrong who amongst other duties kept our Mailing List up and running during my absence.

As usual remember Exchange sheets are the Life Blood of the club so "Licking and Sticking Please"

Happy Stamping ...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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Newspapers - Who reads them?

One result of the digital revolution has been the demise, to a certain extent, of newspapers. When we can have instant news beamed to our computers or phones, what need is there to read the same news the next day? To try to satisfy readers and combat falling subscriptions, the newspapers have embarked on the ever increasing publication of stories that involve sex, violence, fear or political corruption, preferably a combination of all of them. This, they say, is what the public wants to read. Bad news sells by making people feel that there is someone who is worse off than themselves.

You can imagine the surprise of our member, Richard Guy, when visiting London, to see a third of a page article about a new stamp issue, nestled between the murders and crime in the Times. There was a time, of course, when most papers and magazines contained articles about philately, sometimes even employing a philatelic reporter. As a consequence, when researching early stamps, the Trove website, that shows old newspapers, can be a valuable resource, particularly when seeking details on an issue's designers or engravers which is increasingly being left out of catalogues. For instance, Michel no longer list such details as the sheer number of stamps now issued has made space in the catalogues so restricted.

So who, you might ask, still reads newspapers and the answer you would get with just minimal research is that older people do. Strangely, when you talk to these older people you find that they have already seen enough violence to last a lifetime. The sexual escapades of the young and beautiful are of little interest and political corruption is something that they long ago took for granted. Only the articles intended to generate fear are at all relevant causing some to prefer to stay at home.

Surely, if the readership of a paper has a particular demographic as a large part of its readership, it would make sense for the marketing gurus at the paper to investigate what that demographic is interested in. They might find that a large number of older people are collectors of one sort or another. Perhaps the Times has done this which is why a new stamp release was considered newsworthy enough to merit a third of a page. The Dad's Army set seems to have been a very popular release and quite a few have made it recently to Australia on incoming mail.



Stamp Bulletins Needed

Our librarian, Ian Kimpton, is keen to add to our collection of Australia Post Stamp Bulletins with the ultimate aim to have a complete collection. This is something the club has been pursuing for some time now as there is a wealth of information in these publications that is rarely seen elsewhere and certainly does not find a place in the catalogues.

Despite a lot of effort over the last few years, we still need quite a few to complete the collection. Ian has released a list of the numbers that we need, either as an original or alternatively a photocopy or digital copy. The numbers required are:

100, 101, 102, 103,

322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337 and 338.

If you can help with any of these, please contact the club through one of the methods listed on the front page of this newsletter.

1911 Stamp Design Competition Essays

There was some excitement early this year when a non-collector came across a couple of items that turned out to be entries into Australia's 1911 stamp design competition. These were two of those submitted by "Wattle Blossom" and had previously not been included in the catalogues. They were offered for private sale by Sandy Bay stamps in Tasmania.

In 1911, uniform postal rates were introduced between all the Australian states. To address the need for a Commonwealth stamp, a competition was instigated by the Postmaster-General, Josiah Thomas, with a top prize of £100, a small fortune in those days. Not surprisingly, the competition attracted over a thousand entries.

The rules stated that the essay had to include the words Australia and Postage and were to be submitted anonymously under a nom-de-plume to allay any fears of favoritism.

At top right, is the design submitted by "Bendigo", the image supplied by member, Richard Guy who suggests that this should be on the front of our magazine. What do members think of that suggestion? I have added it to the banner this month and invite your comments.

Many of the original essays have been reprinted and reprints can be found, usually in strips of five, for just a few dollars but the originals are somewhat more expensive. Three originals in the Arthur Gray collection were sold when that collection went to auction in 2007 for \$3500 each. Another from the same collection and submitted as a pen and ink drawing sold in the same sale for \$10,875 and is shown at right. This was from Australia's foremost stamp designer of the time, Maximillian Tannenber.



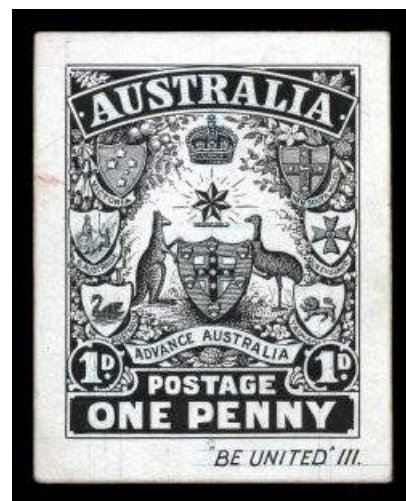
The winning design which was accepted, with modifications was the now familiar kangaroo and map. This second essay from the Morgan collection was sold in 2012 for \$142,563 and is a good example to show what changes were made.

Firstly, it was noticed that Tasmania had been left off the map. Secondly, it was thought that only one value tablet was needed so one was removed. The third change came due to an unlikely criticism from Australia's farmers. They said that the tuft of grass in front of the kangaroo looked too much like a rabbit sticking its head up out of a hole. Rabbit plagues were crippling Australia's agriculture at the time and farmers did not want to be reminded of the fact every time they sent a letter. The "rabbit" was removed.

Below are some of the other designs that didn't win approval.



Bendigo.



A Stamp That Eclipses All Others

There is a mug that you can buy, if you are a Dr. Who fan, that shows on one side, the Tardis standing in a suburban street and on the other, the stars of outer space. When you fill the cup with a hot drink, the Tardis magically disappears from the street and reappears in outer space on the other side of the cup. In June 2017, the US Postal Service used the same idea on a Forever stamp to celebrate the upcoming total solar eclipse that would be seen in August in the United States.

The stamp shows a picture of the sun at the moment when the moon is completely blocking it from view but if you put your thumb over the stamp for a short while, the image changes to a stunning picture of the full moon. The image reverts back to the dark image as it cools. The photos are the work of Fred Espenak, a retired astrophysicist who worked at NASA and has been nicknamed “Mt Eclipse”. He took the total eclipse photo in Libya in 2006 and took the superimposed photo of the moon in Arizona in 2010.



The trick is achieved by using something called “thermochromic ink” and although Dr Who has been using it for some time, this is the first time it has been used on a stamp. This ink is sadly rather susceptible to breakdown when exposed to ultraviolet light and sheets are delivered in special protective envelopes. For collectors, this means that if you were lucky enough to receive one of these on a letter from the US, it would already have begun deteriorating during transit and needed to go into the album as quickly as possible

Perhaps it is a gimmick but it is a very clever one and has resulted in a very collectable stamp. USPS say they have more tricks up their sleeve as they try to interest young people in stamps and encourage them to write letters. It will be interesting to see what they come up with, though hopefully they will be better received than the recent “popsicle” scratch and sniff stamps that attracted a lot of negative feedback as the chemical they used to create the smell of summer, as they put it, was found to be one that could trigger an asthma attack in sufferers of that ailment.

Sources: Photos and some details from USPS website with additional information from Wikipedia.

What is wrong with this stamp?

With the number and frequency of new stamp issues these days, many of us don't even see all the new issues, let alone study them but there was a time when every new stamp would be closely scrutinized and any deficiencies in design would be bitterly criticized.

This stamp drew howls of rage from critics for all sorts of reasons. The rider is not holding the reins properly. The saddle he is using had not been invented at the time. Horses do not gallop with their mouths open. Some even said you could see right through his nostrils as if he had been shot through there. But by far the strongest criticism was this. The pony express rider is not carrying any mail bags!



“Rusty” Stamps

One problem that has plagued collectors forever is what is commonly known as “rust”, particularly on older stamps. It is not rust, of course, as rust is the oxidation of iron but as the term has become common, we will use it here. Nor, as some believe, is it a fungus. My experience as a botanist convinced me that it is most likely a form of yeast or mould though that is really guesswork as I’ve never actually studied it that closely.



One of the things that made me think a yeast was involved was the way it often starts around the hinge. We have many yeasts in and on our bodies, usually kept in some sort of balance but occasionally blooming to cause problems such as “thrush”. There are yeasts in saliva which can be transferred to the stamp when the hinge is licked.

That belief led me to trying to find a cure among the treatments available for moulds and yeast infections. This is a topic that has been discussed many times on the various discussion boards with some of the cures suggested being downright dangerous. I mean, what is the point of killing the rust if it kills you as well.

There are many things that people may have around their home that are safe to use but do a pretty effective job. Working on the idea that this was a mould or yeast, I started out by trying the spray that you use for killing mould in the bathroom and shower. It worked very well but unfortunately it had some form of chlorine in its make-up and it bleached the colour out of the stamps as well. (There are, of course, stamps that were deliberately printed using fugitive inks. This was to stop them being soaked off and reused. De La Rue actually used this as a marketing ploy and any stamps printed with these inks can’t be treated, even with a simple wash.)

I hit the jackpot when I tried barbecue cleaner. This has to be non-toxic as it is for cleaning the surface on which you are going to cook your food. I came across this when it was recommended for cleaning the jets in the heads of computer printers and I thought, “Why not give it a try?” There are many brands but the one I tried first worked so I have never changed it or tried others. It is shown at right. So here is what I do.



I spray the stamps with enough cleaner to soak them. Then I leave them for a minute or two then wash them with boiling water. I have an artists paint brush that I use to gently brush away any hinge or contaminated gum remains. I then dry them. I use a microwave press which adds a further attack on any residual yeasts but normal drying seems to work as well. The results with the two stamps shown above can be seen below.



Like any mould or yeast, rust can spread fairly quickly through a collection. There are a few rules that can minimize your problem with this curse. Firstly, don’t put a rusty stamp in with your good stamps or the infection will spread to them. Always use acid free paper for album pages. The cheaper papers, particularly like the old albums we used to have as kids, seem to encourage the rust. Don’t use old albums that have brown marks on the pages. The cheap, Asian stockbooks seem to be particularly susceptible to rust. Ideally, stockbooks and albums should be replaced every ten years or so but few of us do this, I suspect. Black pages and old hagners make it impossible to see the rust but putting a valuable stamp in an old stockbook is asking for trouble.

Rust is a problem that affects collectors at every level. I remember reading some years back how some of the Royal Collection had to have the gum washed off as rust had become a problem. Again, up until fairly recent times, hinges were the main way of displaying a stamp on a page and the problem probably derived from King George’s spit!

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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*Proudly Hosted by
The Philatelic &
Numismatic
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CITY OF GREATER
GEE LONG

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



Features:

- **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*

Free Entry

Free Valuations

more than 35 dealer & club tables

Prizes & give-aways

presented by:

Ballarat Stamp Club

Club displays

Ballarat Philatelic Society Inc. A001256J

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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 October 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

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