# The Golden City Philatelist

## December 2018

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### *Diary of Future Events*

December  4    Christmas Eats and Mammoth Auction.
December  5    Daytime Meeting.

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

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### Presidents Message December 2018

By the time you get this we will be getting ready for our Gala Christmas evening and mammoth Auction. Here are the details.
Start time is 6:30PM. Note the earlier start We eat first SO do not be late.
Bring a dinner item to share around ie: Sandwiches cakes etc.

All members are entitled to submit 10 items for the Auction. Email Margaret at mabrown@bigpond.net.au to get your numbers. There will be a cut off date which we will send to you

Wow what an evening we had in November with our club competitions being held. Both of which were won by our Noel Earles. We will present Noel with his prizes at our Christmas meeting.

As our guests we had 3 Ballarat Members and Alex Stoneman from Maryborough. Both Alex and Jack Van Beveren acted as judges as well as our own David Somerton for the Competitions. Thank you One and All.

Our Giant Auction which we held on the night was enjoyed by 40 people and judging by the small residue left was a great success. We are looking to repeat this again in 2019.
Wishing all our members and Mailing List friends the compliments of the season We love having you on board.

STOP PRESS
We will start the 2019 Night Meeting at our <u>Golden Square</u> venue on Tuesday the 1st of January (New Years night) at 7:30PM
Our January Daytime meeting will be at the same Golden Square Venue at 10AM on the 2nd January.
Note this down in your diary or on your phone now to save any confusion ****
Happy Stamping, Libby.

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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.

The special auction and club competitions drew forty members to our October meeting. As can be seen from the photograph, many could hardly contain their excitement! We also had visitors from Ballarat and Maryborough who were immediately roped in as judges for the competitions. There were seven entries this year, a much better effort than last year and though the standard of all of them was excellent, one in each of the two classes stood out as the obvious winner. Both had been prepared by Noel Earles and were a testament, not only to his prodigious philatelic knowledge but also to the great amount of work he was prepared to put into his entries. Well done, Noel!

Our thanks also go to Jack Van Beveren from Ballarat and Alex Stoneman from Maryborough and our own David Somerton who volunteered to judge the competitions.

*Right: Libby Luke (club president), Jack Van Beveren, Alex Stoneman, Noel Earles and David Somerton.*

*Below: Alex taking the judging seriously.*
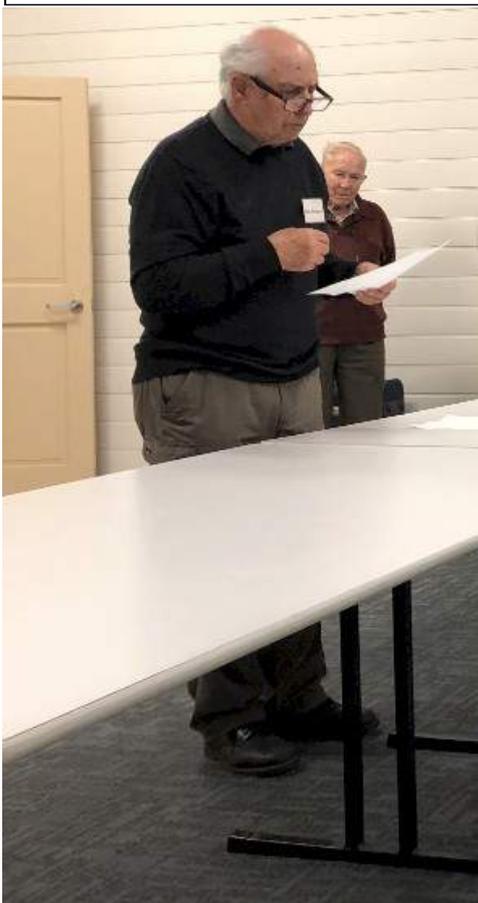




**Competition Entries 2018**
Len Bennett Memorial Open Competition
1. *Postal Covers of N.S.W.* submitted by Noel Earles
2. *A Philatelic View of the Tour de France* submitted by David Cotton
3. *Pilch and Toth - Like Peaches and Cream* submitted by John Armstrong
4. *Voyage of the First Fleet* submitted by Ken Datson

John Tresise Memorial Thematic Competition
1. *The Many Varied Shapes of Stamps* submitted by Lindsay Nicholls
2. *FDC's of the Australia Day Stamps 1978 – 1997* submitted by Ken Datson
3. *A partial study of the 7c.Violet QEII stamp* submitted by Noel Earles

"When I die, I want to go peacefully like my grandfather did - in his sleep. Not yelling and screaming like the passengers in his car." Bob Monkhouse (1928-2003)

## So, you think you're having a bad day?

None of us lives in a perfect world and some days it might seem that everything is against us. If you are having a day like that, pause for a moment and think how it compares with Prince Amadeo's wedding day.

Amadeo was the second son of King Vittorio Emanuelle II of Italy and held the title of Duke of Aosta which was part of the House of Savoy. In 1867, he married Donna Maria Vittoria dal Pozzo who, although a "commoner", was from the nobility and heiress to a vast fortune. We'll get to that in a minute.

*Amadeo and Maria Vittoria*

Isabella II of Spain was ousted by the Spanish Revolution and the crown was offered to Amadeo who for a while became King Amadeo of Spain in 1870. This also made him King of Cuba and his image appears on their early stamps as well. His main backer had been General Juan Prim y Prats but shortly after Amadeo took the crown, General Prim was assassinated.

Amadeo then found himself in the middle of a nightmare of political intrigues with nobody actually supporting him. On one occasion, while travelling with his wife, their carriage was riddled with bullets in an assassination attempt but amazingly, they were both unharmed. It was not long after that, however, that Amadeo announced that the Spanish were "ungovernable". He abdicated and moved back to Italy where his wife's fortune plus his own considerable wealth as Duke of Aosta supported them quite well.

*Amadeo was also King of Cuba*

When his wife died in 1876, he married again, this time to his French niece, Princess Maria Letizia Bonaparte. They had one son, Umberto, in 1889 but Amadeo did not live to see him grow and died the following year. Like so many others, Umberto died in the First World War, not from the fighting but from the flu that ravaged the armies on both sides.

But to get back to the title of this article, the wedding day for Amadeo and Maria Vittoria did not go well and one can only wonder at what was going on. Firstly, the best man shot himself. Then the palace gatekeeper committed suicide by cutting his own throat. Inside the house, the bride's wardrobe mistress hanged herself. Next, the colonel who was leading the wedding procession collapsed from sunstroke but despite all the obstacles, they made it through the ceremony. Then, as the couple were leaving, the stationmaster was crushed to death under the honeymoon train.

And you think *you* are having a bad day?

## 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 are not 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.
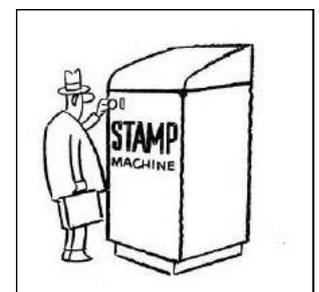
## Beyond The Black Stump and other musings

One of the better things about growing older is having the time to let one's mind wander, a luxury that was not possible back in the working years when being focused on the job in hand was all important. I was idly browsing through an Australian catalogue when my eye fell on the stamp at right and all sorts of links jumped into mind, not all related to the stamp but almost all related to the changes Australia has gone through since my family migrated here in January 1962. We moved into a house at the foot of Mount Dandenong, just before the mountain erupted into flame, a major bushfire that devastated many local families.



*Fire from the Environment Dangers set of 1975*

Fortunately we were not one of them. We sat on the verandah, watching the fire come down the mountain and having no experience of such an event, were fascinated and quite oblivious to the danger. Only next morning when we saw the news and found large burnt patches in the paddocks all around our sixty year old timber house, were we conscious of how close it had all come. While musing on all this, like one of those old jumping jack firecrackers we had as kids, my thoughts jumped to how the image on the stamp resembled the legendary "Black Stump". Like the once rural district where we lived, our language, like the rest of Australia has altered beyond anything that Australians would have recognized in 1962.

Back then, anything further inland was referred to as being out beyond the black stump and it wasn't until much later that I found out, mainly through research by Warren Fahey, that there had actually been a black stump. Warren and I shared a love of and interest in the origins of Australian folk music and the stories surrounding them. Our interactions were limited due to him being based in Sydney while we were Melbourne based, but a lot of his research was published and read avidly by his southern contemporaries.

The Black Stump resting place is first officially mentioned in the N.S.W Government Gazette No 24 back in 1832 as being on the Coolah to Gunnedah Road, five and a half miles (roughly nine km) north of Coolah. Indeed, in recent times, Coolah has seized on the tourism opportunities surrounding being the home of the black stump and a plethora of black stump related themes can be found there. This has a pretty good basis in fact. The original Aboriginal name for the area was Weetalibah-Wallangan which apparently translates as "the place the fire went out and left a black stump".

A wayside saloon was built at the spot in the 1860s, known as The Black Stump Wine Saloon. Originally catering to drovers on the stock route to Sydney, it later became a staging post for the passengers on the stagecoach run to the North West of N.S.W. As the last relatively civilized spot on the journey with everything further out being wild bush, it is not surprising that it became known as the gate to the outback and the expression grew up that anything beyond the black stump was unknown territory, but the expression actually goes deeper and earlier than that.

The Black Stump Saloon took its name from the nearby Black Stump Run and Black Stump Creek, both of which had been named after the Aboriginal name for the area. In 1826, when Governor Darling decreed the limits of settlement for the state, part of the boundary was the Black Stump Run and the area past there was officially listed as "beyond". Thus, "beyond the Black Stump" was also a definition of being past the legal limits for settlement.

Despite these rules, many settlers pushed on into the unknown territory to graze their stock and any description they gave of their location gained the vague title of "beyond the black stump", an expression that was still in common use back in the 1960s. It is rarely heard today as the internet and the influence of American television has led to the loss of so much of the Australian vernacular and we have become a part of the global homogenisation of the language.

## Stamp Bulletins Needed

We now only need a few to complete the collection, either as an original or alternatively a photocopy or digital copy. The numbers required are: 100, 101, 102, 103,
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 or give them to Ian Kimpton at our meeting.

# All right! Who really invented the postage stamp?

If you ask anyone in the English speaking world, they will tell you that the first postage stamp was the Penny Black, shown at right, and it was invented by Rowland Hill. That answer, according to some countries, is only partly right.

While it can be agreed that the Penny Black was the first postage stamp as we understand it, there are other countries where you may find that local people are credited with either coming up with the idea or producing something that can be called a stamp before the Penny Black made its appearance, and that includes Australia.



*This 1838 Sydney embossed sheet was sold by Prestige Auctions for $3000*

Let's look at Australia's claim first. When Rowland Hill sent round his discussion paper on how to improve the post office, a copy found its way to Sydney where the postmaster decided to act on the ideas. Rather than producing stamps as we understand them, they produced letter sheets which were embossed with the "stamp" to show payment had been made. These were then good for delivery anywhere in the Sydney area. The service began in November 1838 at a cost of 1½d each or 1/3 per dozen. People could also have their own stationery embossed by the post office rather than using the pre-embossed sheets. Although this was a year and a half before the Penny Black, most people would probably argue that these were not "real" postage stamps.

If we go back another two years to what is now Yugoslavia, we find that in 1836, Laurence Kosir suggested to the postal authorities that letters could be shown to have postage paid by affixing a printed label to them. If this sounds awfully familiar to you then you can probably understand why in Yugoslavia, Kosir is known as "the ideological inventor of the postage stamp". A set to commemorate his contribution to the post was issued by Yugoslavia in 1948 with the airmail stamp showing Kosir and a plane over his birthplace in the mountains. Even so, Kosir may have been inspired by an even earlier pioneer.
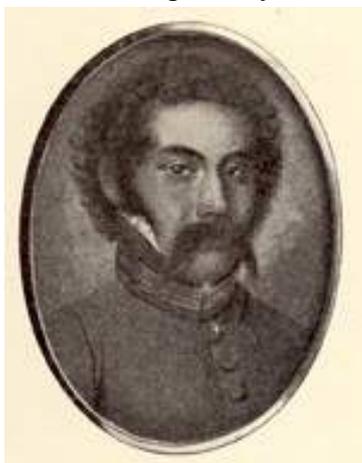




*Treffenberg*

In 1823, Lieutenant Curry Gabriel Treffenberg addressed the Riksdag, the meeting of nobles that acted as Sweden's parliament. After pointing out how complicated the current method for collecting postal revenue was and how easily it was open to embezzlement, he set out proposals for a complete overhaul of the postal system with prepayment for postage and the use of "stamped paper" to show payment. His ideas were very similar to those proposed by Hill but after endless committee discussions, the Riksdag voted against the idea. If they had accepted his proposals, it is quite likely that we would be remembering him, rather than Rowland Hill as the inventor of the postage stamp.

However, no matter how many people may be claimed to have come up with the ideas behind the use of stamps, there is no doubt that Rowland Hill was the first to bring those ideas to fruition and for that, we should all be grateful.

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A recent joint study conducted by the Department of Health and the Department of Motor Vehicles indicates that 23% of traffic accidents are alcohol related.

This means that the remaining 77% are caused by people who drink bottled water, Starbucks coffee, soda, juice, energy drinks, and things like that.

Therefore, beware of those who do not drink alcohol. They cause three times as many accidents.

# 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