



The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 89th year

March 2019



Diary of Future Events

Tuesday	March	5	Aircraft Before 1940.
Wednesday	March	6	Daytime Meeting.
Tuesday	April	2	World Health Awareness. Lois Whatley entries
Wednesday	April	3	Daytime Meeting.
Tuesday	May	7	Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt Viewing.
Wednesday	May	8	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 Message March 2019

Wasn't it nice to be back in our home again in February? Well 30 plus members thought so and an enjoyable night was had by all.

We again congratulate Marg and Angelo for the quick and proficient operation of the auction. Our two auctioneers, Bill and David assisted by your proficient delivery girl keeps the show running smoothly. Thanks to you all.

I have been in contact with our friends from St. Arnaud and we will be getting together shortly. The only decision is do we go to St. Arnaud or do St. Arnaud come to us?

Do not forget the Ballarat Stamp Fair on Monday March 11th 2019.

There will be a flyer in another part of this newsletter with all the details.

There is another problem that comes with collecting stamps and that is moisture. How soul destroying to open your album and find those tell tale brown spots. This has become more prevalent with the number of evaporative coolers now installed. Yes they work well and cheap BUT they leave a lot of moisture around. In the past you could buy crystals to help get rid of this unwanted moisture but they were very slow and inefficient. To help overcome this problem we have purchased a mobile dehumidifier. It is well worth having a talk with your local White goods store. They come in several makes sizes and prices. And work very proficiently. Dehumidifier pictured is \$79.00. Prices and size go up from here.

There are many auctions around the State this month so treat yourself looking for that elusive bargain.

My final message to all members is as usual the plea for more Exchange sheets'

Best wishes "One and All" 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:

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.bendigophilatelicsociety.org

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

Newsletter Editor: John Armstrong

email: jjarmstrong47@hotmail.com

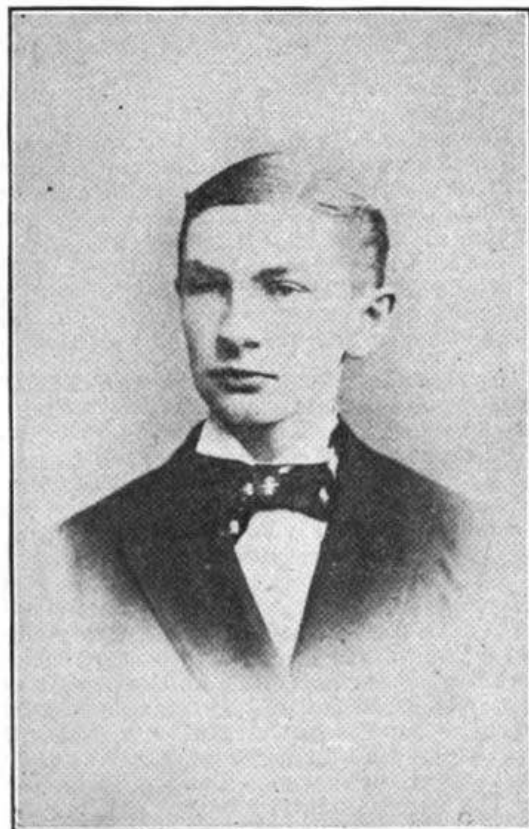
More about Seebeck

Following our article last month that mentioned the somewhat controversial issues created by Nicholas F. Seebeck, I received an email from Alex Stoneman asking whether I was aware of a new book about him. The original, *Seebeck: Hero or Villain?*, was published in 1985 by Danilo Mueses but has only previously been available in Spanish. Michael Schreiber, with the blessing of the original author, has translated the work and updated it using a lot of material that was not previously available.

Most of us are aware of the fairly high prices that philatelic books command, due to the generally small print runs, but this book comes as a pleasant surprise. Michael has produced this as an e-book and is providing it free to anyone with an interest in this fascinating character, or indeed to those philatelists who don't know the story but are interested to read it.

To receive the book, all you need to do is email Michael at momotombo@woh.rr.com and request it. It comes along with some articles about the Hamilton Bank Note Engraving and Printing Company who printed the issues. I emailed Michael to thank him and mentioned my interest in engraved stamps and he sent back some more articles that he thought might interest me. He is a very friendly and approachable man whose work is dedicated to the improvement of philately in general rather than profit. What a refreshing concept that is!

Although in his day, Seebeck was pilloried by the philatelic community for his business methods, he also produced stamps that were quite stunning and which were released by countries that may never have reached that quality if they had not accepted his offer. Moreover, when his contracts were no longer renewed, those countries maintained the standard with some stunning engraved issues. Perhaps he was simply before his time as his methods were no worse than most stamp issuing entities today. Australia Post issue hundreds of new issues every year despite stamps only being used on a minute proportion of the mail they carry.



NICHOLAS FREDERICK SEEBECK.



The classic issues from Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Ecuador, such as that shown at left, would not have existed had it not been for Seebeck. Would Nicaragua have set such a high standard later, such as the 1901 stamp above right produced by Waterlow, had he not shown them the possibilities.

Are thematics the way to interest young people in stamps?

We often hear anguished cries that young people are not interested in stamps. It is true. Young people today live in a far different world to the one we knew at their age. Electronic communications have meant that there are few places on earth that can't be accessed at the touch of a keyboard whereas when I bought my first stamp (for 1½d in 1956) I had to ask my teacher where it was from. It was enough to get my curiosity aroused and sixty-odd years later, I'm still curious about these little works of art.

In the 1950s, it seemed like everyone I knew collected stamps or matchbox labels, beer bottle labels or some other small piece of paper that could be tucked into an album. My own children would rather play games on their computers. New collectors are coming into the hobby as I suspect that the "collecting gene" is still rampant in the population, merely suppressed for later, but most new collectors are older when they start.

Nobody would deny that new collectors are needed to replace those of us who've gone to the great stamp club in the sky. Is it important that they start as children? Possibly not, though most of us would love to share our hobby with our kids. My own opinion is that the younger the person starts, the sooner they learn all the procedures necessary to collect as well as making the mistakes before the financial outlay becomes significant. I don't remember owning tweezers for some years after starting and the grubby state of the few stamps I still possess from that era are testament to that.



Cartoon stamps might cause some collectors to sneer but if they interest young people in the hobby then they why not?



So that brings us back to the title of this article. If you look at the emissions today it is obvious that many of them are unashamedly thematic, highlighting the latest things that might be of interest to young people. Generally, I suspect, these are bought by doting grandparents but if they kindle any interest in our hobby, then that can only be a good thing. Although thirty years ago, thematic collecting was not considered to be "real" philately, those days have gone and collecting to a theme rather than being restricted to one country can be very interesting indeed.

Rae Bryant showed me the latest American Topical newsletter where I noticed that they prepare topical (their word for thematic) packets for distribution at stamp fairs. Cartoons feature prominently, which will make some collectors shudder but if that is what interests young people, so be it.

So if you know someone, not necessarily a young person, and would like to try to interest them in our hobby, thematic collecting might seem like a good place to start.

A collection of Space stamps can be started quite cheaply and could appeal to some young people.

At the other end of the scale, a collection of aircraft on stamps that could be started off cheaply, might lead to a desire for this U.S. Parcel post stamp which was the first ever depiction of an aircraft on a stamp. A mint copy such as the one shown, could set you back well over a hundred dollars.



What to do with too many common stamps.

We all know what it's like. You buy a lot at the club auction that has some stamps that you want amongst the dross. After taking out the goodies, you then have to dispose of the rest. If you have the time, you may stick them all onto exchange sheets so others in the club can pick them over. Then, after some time passes, the remainders come back to you. You may be able to bundle them up and put them back in the auction but the chances are pretty good that eventually, you are going to have a lot of really common stamps on your hands. As a philatelist, it goes against the grain to burn them or put them in the rubbish bin but what on earth can you do?

One solution is to either give them to an artist or have a go at creating something yourself. A few years ago, post office workers used old stamps to create a picture of their boss, Ahmed Fahour. One can sometimes see vases or lamp bases that have been covered with stamps then varnished though often these are found in the local opportunity shop where they can remain, unloved and unwanted for some time.



Most of us are old enough to remember Spencer Tracy in his role as a priest in Boy's Town. It often gets an airing around Christmas. You have probably heard of their motto, "He ain't heavy, he's my brother" which inspired the song by the Hollies. Boy's Town is a real place in Nebraska USA and one winter, back in 1953 someone there got an idea to while away the cold winter days. In those days, of course, most children owned a stamp album but even with the number of collectors back then, there was always a proliferation of common stamps that nobody wanted.



Beginning with the rubber core of an old golf ball (some reports say it was a pencil stub) the boys began covering it with old stamps. As more and more boys got involved, the stamp ball grew until finally, in 1955, it was getting too big to handle and they stopped. By then the golf ball core had been covered with what is claimed to be 4,655,000 used stamps. After 60+ years, it is still, according to the Guinness book of records, the largest ball of stamps in the world, more than 80cm in diameter and weighing in at over 270 kg.

The ball is still on display at Boy's Town, standing on a plinth with a background mural, also made from thousands of used stamps. So next time you look at that mountain of unwanted stamps, here's a challenge. You could even make it into the Guinness Book of Records

Wrong theatre! Wrong date! Wrong vessel! Wrong troops!

You have to hand it to the British Post Office. If you are going to get a stamp wrong, it might as well be completely wrong. When they released the image of the upcoming stamp to commemorate the D-Day landings in Normandy, only the Queen's head and the value were correct.



Most philatelists are keen on history in one form or another. It seems to go with the collecting bug, not surprising seeing that we look at little slices of history every time we open our albums. Unfortunately, this can't be said to be true of the population in general, though Australia lags far behind the U.S.A in that regard where a recent survey found that more young people there believe Narnia exists than believe the Vietnam war actually happened and was not just thought up by the movies.

Embarrassingly, the problem with the stamp was pointed out to the British Post Office by the New York Times. The photograph was taken months before the D-Day landings. It is of American soldiers landing in Indonesia and the ships shown were not involved at Normandy. Fortunately, the problem was pointed out before the stamp was released which is a bit of a shame really as you could make quite a good collection of the mistakes on British stamps during this Queen's reign. Oh, well! Back to the drawing board!

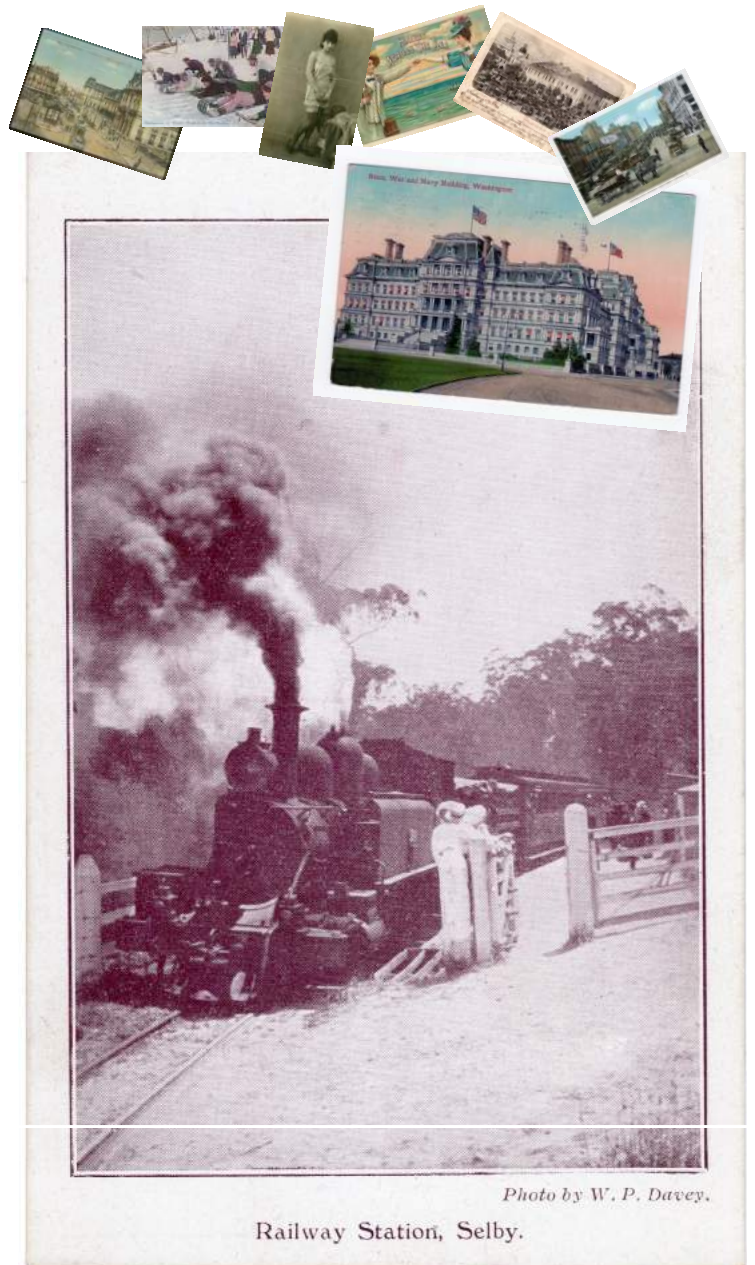
Apologies To All Cartophiliacs

In last month's newsletter we gave the details of the upcoming talk by Eric Panther at the Bendigo Library. Unfortunately, we mixed up the dates, for which we apologise. The correct details are below

Eric Panther is the president of the Australian Cartophilic Society and he will be the guest speaker at the Bendigo Library on Saturday 16th March at 1.30 pm. Eric is very knowledgeable when it comes to all things cartophilic and if members have any postcards that they would like to know more about, they are invited to bring them along.

If you would like to know more about the society and its activities, you can contact them through their website at:

<http://www.australiancartophilic.org.au/>



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: Every Wednesday following the Tuesday night 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 can be obtained from the club secretary.

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 or give them to Ian Kimpton at our meeting.

Ballarat Philatelic Society Inc A0012556J

BALLARAT BEGONIA FESTIVAL STAMP & COIN FAIR

Monday 11th March 2019

9.30am – 3.30pm

Ballarat Specialist School Farm Campus

800 Norman Street, Invermay Park, Ballarat

**FEATURING: FREE ENTRY &
INTERCLUB DISPLAYS**

For sale: Limited Editions (100) - No.18
of the Ballarat Historical Envelopes
series and overprinted Australia Post
Lighthouse Miniature sheet

No 2. of our popular NEW
Cinderella series

35 plus dealers and club tables, easy
parking, free valuations, catering,
prizes and giveaways



Book a table: Neil Petrass—0448 346 499—npetrass@bigpond.com

Cinderellas: Jack Van Beveren—0427 819 984—annejack3@bigpond.com

More info: Peter Morey—0435 601 673—petermorey05@gmail.com

Next Fair: Ballarat Eureka Stamps & Coins Fair...Sunday October 13th 2019

VISIT our website: Ballaratstampclub.com.au

New members most welcome!

Ocean Grove Stamp Club Stamp and Coin Fair

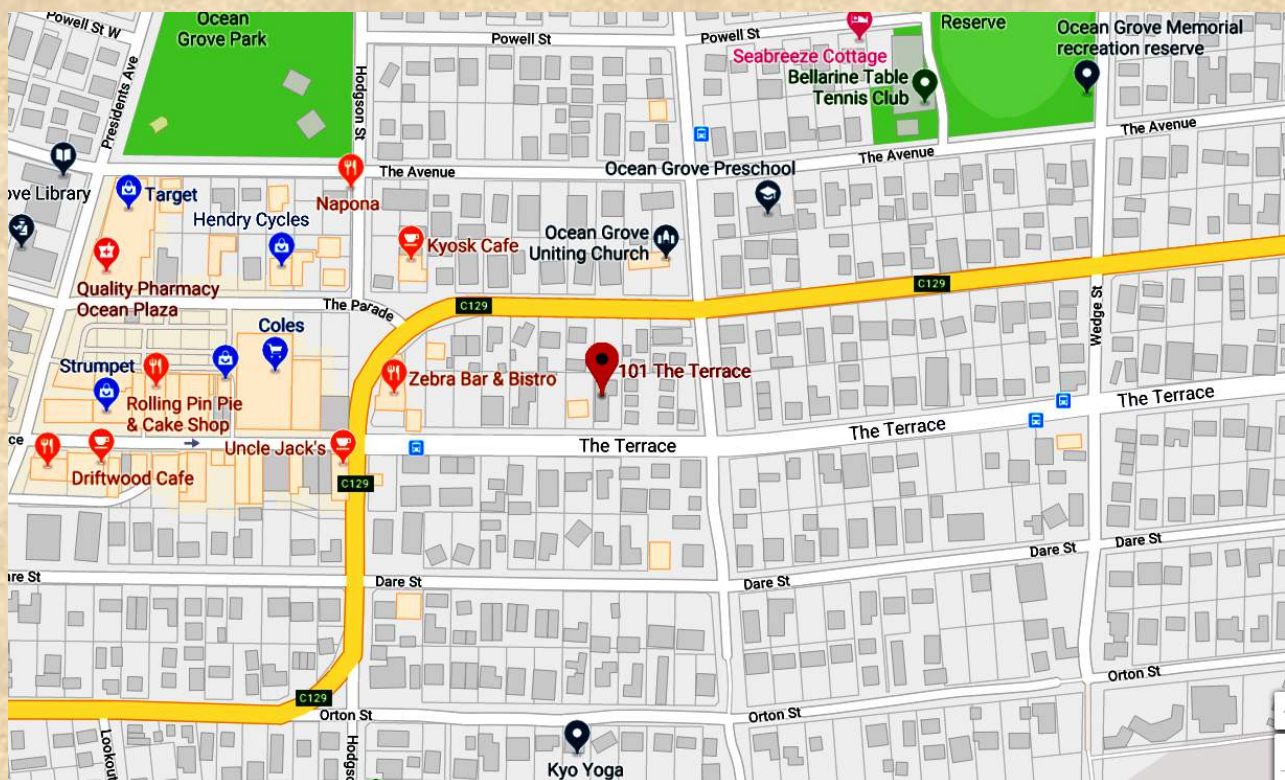
Saturday March 23rd 2019

Senior Citizen's Club Rooms
101 The Terrace, Ocean Grove Vic.
10am—2pm

Dealers in attendance

Refreshments available

Entry by gold coin donation





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