



# The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 89<sup>th</sup> year

July 2019



Web page: [www.bendigophilatelicsociety.org](http://www.bendigophilatelicsociety.org) Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/zb2ma53>

## Diary of Future Events

Tuesday	July	2	Marine Life.
Wednesday	July	3	Daytime Meeting.
Tuesday	August	6	Women and Leadership.
Wednesday	August	7	Daytime Meeting
Tuesday	September	3	Roman Numerals (I, for one, love Roman Numerals).
Wednesday	September	4	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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Saturday August 10th 2019 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Bendigo Philatelic Society Annual Stamp Fair ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## President's Message July 2019

2019 is half gone and we now look forward to our annual Stamp Fair on August the 10th. Details of same are printed throughout this Newsletter .

We hope to see you all there for a wonderful day in Stamp Collecting and to find that elusive bargain.

Here is an item of interest for you from Philatelic History.

In 1845 after many complaints that paper stamps were easily torn and therefore inadmissible the Royal Mail made the decision to allow a pair of damaged stamps to be bisected and joined on a letter as shown in the sample below.



However it soon became obvious that stamps were being reused. So after a trial of 3 months the decision was rescinded. Here is a rare Maltese cross example showing a penny black and a penny red combined. This example was posted in Sheffield on the 24th Jan. 1845.

Postmarks were much more legible then.

Hope to see you all at our July Meeting with a mini display of Marine Life ?

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**

**10 items per member** are allowed for auctions

Christmas bonanza auction in **December** .

Exchange sheets will be circulated at all meetings.

More sheets are always needed so please "lick and stick" a few.

## CLUB CONTACTS:

**President:** *Libby Luke*

**Secretary:** *Joy Watters (away)*

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# Discussion on the 1954 issue on Red Cross, and the frequency of the “short arm to the cross” flaw. Also addition of plate 4 (without dashes) to BW.

By Richard Guy ACCCF

Many years ago in April 2001 (sorry I do not have the reference) I wrote a paper on the above subject, and the frequency of the short arm to the cross flaw. Dr Geoff Kellow wrote half the paper with me, but my contribution was only on the short arm to the cross flaw. See figure 1 for the scan of the short arm to the cross.



**Figure 1.** The short left arm to the cross at 10/4.

The recent 2019 excellent production by Brusden White (1) on the Queen Elizabeth II pre-decimal issues sadly still states that this flaw only exists on plate 3. This is a carry-over from the previous editions. My earlier paper in 2001 advises that the flaw exists at position 10/4 on **all sheets with an undashed platenumber**, as well as the sheets with one dot and two dots in left margin. See figure 2. Sheets with the dashed plate numbers do not contain this flaw. There is an image of a plate -3- block of eight below, but without the flaw. See figure 3 .

There were two sheets printed with the red colour, and the flaw is found only on one of them.

Finding a plate number in a block of eight with 10/4 is not easy. Most plate numbers were removed from the sheet as a block of four, or nine, but rarely as a block of eight including 10/4. I have five of the six possibilities (do not have plate 4 in this format), which are shown below. My search continues. However, I do have five blocks of four of plate 4 on the left side without dashes, so it should be added to BW (1). The plate number has been cut down the middle of the 4, but there is enough to show there is no dash present. See figure 4. My four copies of plate 4 on the **right** side are all dashed.

It is suggested in note 4 of BW (1) that the “dot plate numbers were a substitution for plate 4, because plate 4 seems to be scarcer than the others. The fact that one dot and two dots sheets BOTH have the short arm seems to indicate that they were not a substitute for plate 4 **and** plate -4-. The author expected that one plate of these dots would NOT have the flaw at 10/4. This is not the case. Why the dots were used remains a mystery to this author, and to Geoff Kellow. The latter suggests that the dots are “indicator dots”, whatever they may be. Collectors may care to offer some thoughts on this.



**Plate 1**



**Plate 2**





**Plate 3**



**Plate One Dot**



**Plate Two Dots**

**Figure 2.** The plated blocks of eight showing the flaw at position 10/4.



**Plate -3-**  
Cross is normal

**Figure 3.** Block of 8 showing plate -3- without the short arm to the cross at 10/4.



**Figure 4.** Blocks showing part of plate 4 from left side, without dashes.

**Reference 1.**

Queen Elizabeth II Section 8,  
1952-1966,  
Australian Commonwealth  
Specialists' Catalogue,  
edited by Geoff Kellow  
2019 and published by  
Brusden-White,  
Broadway 2007 Australia.  
See page 8/44.



## A Pocket Watch List

This article is nothing at all to do with time and the image at left is only there as a rather feeble attempt at humour which shows the author's love of puns. This is really about having a list of stamps that you are watching out for in a small enough format to fit in your pocket. The title is cheating as it should really be a pocket wants list, but that would not be as much fun, would it?

I used to turn up at club meetings and stamp fairs towing a suitcase on wheels that contained all my catalogues. Whenever I found a stamp I needed, I would mark it off in the relevant catalogue so I always knew if a stamp was one I needed. If I had collected a single country, this would have been a pretty good way to do things as I would only have needed to bring one catalogue along but as my collection is world-wide, line engraved, things got a bit complex, not to mention heavy. There had to be a better way. There is! But it meant that I had to finally move into the twenty-first century and look at the technology that is available. My phone is a pretty advanced piece of equipment these days, basically a small computer. How things have changed!

Twenty-six years ago, when my wife was pregnant and due any day, I found that I couldn't get out of going on a university field trip. My brother-in-law had just bought three of the new mobile phones for his business so he lent me one to take with me. This was a box, about one and a half times the size of a shoe box with a big telephone handset on top, that weighed about five kilos and we installed it in the front of the bus.

There was a dial on the front of the box which showed when there was a signal and the students took delight in watching this and calling out on the rare occasions we had one. Coverage in Central Victoria was patchy, to say the least, and generally only occurred at the top of hills. Whenever we had a signal, the bus would stop and I would ring my mother-in-law in Kyneton who would keep me informed. As it happened, my son was a week late so all that drama was not really needed.

My kids use their phones for everything and it was their advice that led me to change my way of doing things.

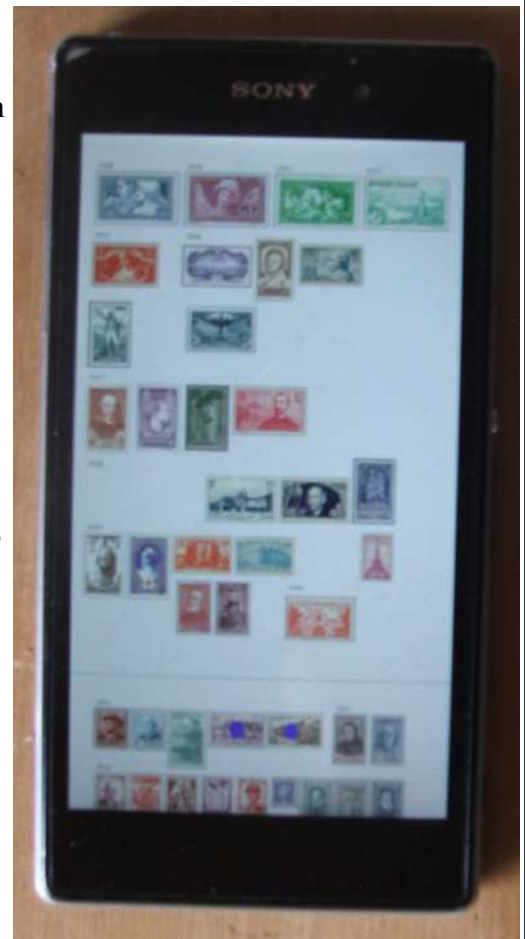
There are some terrific on-line catalogues these days. I am a supporter of both Colnect (<https://colnect.com/en/stamps>) and Stampworld (<https://www.stampworld.com/en/>) as I have found them to be so useful. With Colnect, you can click on the image of any stamp and get a better quality image. I go through the listing for each country with my album in front of me and copy the stamps that I need into a file on my computer. I use Microsoft Publisher for this but Word will work just as well. When I have all of the images for a country, I save them as a PDF file.

Because I save the best quality image I can find, this PDF is quite large so not suitable for a phone. This is where compression comes in useful. Basically, it looks at every pixel and saves the details as a code which is then used to identify all the similar pixels. A seven or eight megabyte file can usually be compressed down to about half a megabyte with no noticeable loss of definition. You may know that this newsletter comes to you as a compressed PDF.

There are several companies online that offer free compression for non-commercial use. The company I used to use offered up to two compressions a day, but then they changed that to a three month trial period after which they wanted payment (and were quite expensive, at that!), so I found someone else. I now use <https://www.ilovepdf.com/> and am very happy to recommend them.

After I have saved my compressed PDF I simply have to plug my phone into my computer and copy the file across. You will need to download the Acrobat reader onto your phone but this is a pretty painless operation and once it is on your phone, it will look for PDFs and find them, no matter where you have saved them. This is one of the rare times where a computer program does what you want it to do without having to learn a set of operating instructions.

Now, when I go to the club or to a fair, I have my wants list in my pocket and can bring any stamp image on the file up to the full screen size. I still mark off my paper catalogues but now they live permanently on the shelf at home.



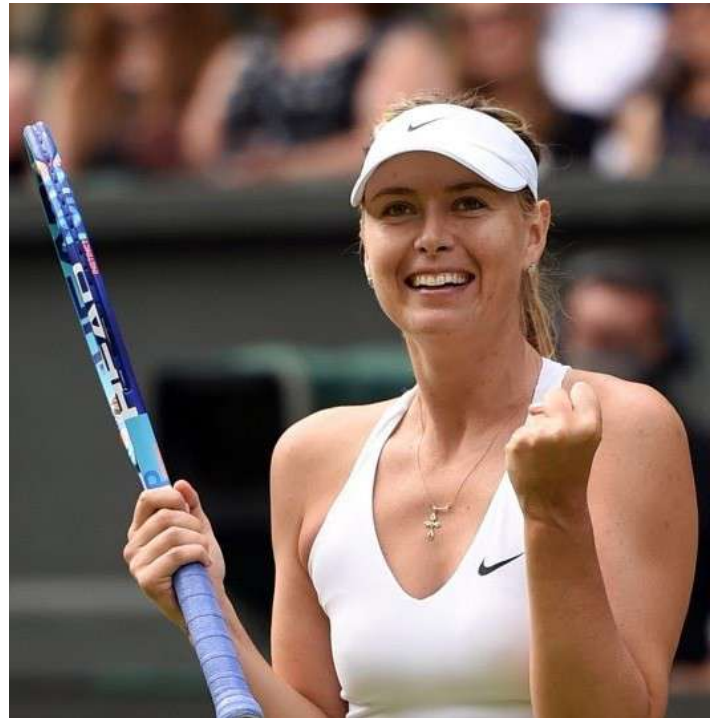


## Do you admit to being a stamp collector?

Most of us “oldies” will freely admit to being stamp collectors. After all, most of our peer group were also collectors at some time, mostly when they were young and letting people know you are a collector can have benefits. Several times I have been given stamps, and even old collections, because someone knew I collected and they wanted them to find a good home.

You might spare a thought then for those who find being known as a stamp collector can actually cause problems. Some years ago, when tennis star, Maria Sharapova mentioned in an interview with the Guardian that her hobbies included stamp collecting, she had no idea of the furore it could cause.

"I have collected stamps since I was nine or 10 years old" Sharapova said. "There are so many, millions really. I have got stamps passed over from my mother's grandmother. It was more of an interest when I was younger. Now I just do it because I did it before, but English stamps are my favourite because they have that picture of the Queen."



Suddenly, nobody was talking about her tennis. Although she is a five times Grand Slam winner, everyone wanted to talk about her stamps, but not always in a particularly positive way. Words like “geek” and “dork” were being bandied about, eventually leading her agent to ban her from talking about her collecting in case it was seen negatively by her sponsors.

When the Guardian brought it up again in a later interview, she responded with, "Oh, God, stop! Everyone's calling me a dork now. I'm actually good at telling stories but that is one I should have never talked about. Oh, my goodness! Let's get off this subject, because I'm going to be an absolute geek tomorrow."

(I can't say I've ever had that problem but then again, I'm not a glamorous, multi-millionaire sports champion.)

## 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.

## FOR SALE

Complete set of “Collection of Australian Stamps”

1981 to 2018 inclusive

All albums in mint condition and still in original plastic pockets.

Make a reasonable offer.

Phone: 0408 595 467

## 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.

The human body is 90% water... so basically we are just cucumbers with anxiety.





# 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](http://www.bendigophilatelicsociety.org)

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Bill Trew

Email: [marj.trew@bigpond.com.au](mailto:marj.trew@bigpond.com.au)