



# The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 89<sup>th</sup> year  
**August 2019**



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

## Diary of Future Events

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
Tuesday	October	1	A.G.M
Wednesday	October	2	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 10th August Bendigo Philatelic Society Annual Stamp Fair

## President's Message August 2019

Another eventful month of July is behind us. I apologize for missing the July Meeting as I was laid low by the dreaded Lurgi !!! Thanks to Bill and the team who took over at such short notice and thank you to all who rang to enquire as to my health.

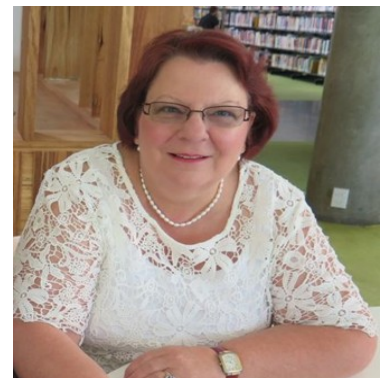
Sad news that Lyle Henderson passed away in July whilst packing to come to our July Meeting. To Lyn we send out heartfelt condolences and we will miss Lyle and his bright and cheery countenance.

Our Ken Datson has had an emergency trip in Hospital I am sure we all are pleased to hear of his recovery. Get well soon Ken and take care.

August is upon us and our Stamp Fair for 2019 is just a few days away. Thank you to Bill Trew and the committee for all your background work to make it successful as usual. To all our sister clubs we hope to see you in Bendigo on the 10th of August looking for that elusive treasure.

I am writing this to you from the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. Along with David Cotton I am looking forward to visiting with different Stamp Clubs over the next few weeks. In past years the welcome we have received from Nambour, Caloundra and Tweed Heads has been marvellous.

My usual request for Exchange sheets please ?  
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)*

**Acting Secretary:** *David Somerton*

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**Treasurer:** *Margaret Brown*

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## Vale Lyle Henderson

When Myrtle told me that her friend's husband was a stamp collector and lived in Kyneton, not far from where I live, I readily agreed to bring him to the club. I have a 150km round trip on club nights and company on the journey would be most welcome.

That was how I met Lyle Henderson and it was an instant friendship. By the time we got to Bendigo that first time, we realised that we had a lot in common. For a start, we were both keen on cars. We were travelling in my almost vintage, 1995 Nissan Serena, a vehicle described by Top Gear as the worst car ever made and Lyle was the first, and possibly only person who could see the value in trying to restore it. Lyle, for his part had been a panel beater in his younger days and over the years we travelled together, he gave me a lot of advice on things I could do to improve the car.

Then, in later life, an interest in the environment had led us both into entirely different careers to that in which we started. I became a botanist after thirty years in music while Lyle became a ranger at Point Cook. His interest in the plants and animals of the park was boundless and I'm sure his enthusiasm must have enriched the experience of the park visitors he escorted on tours.

Added to that, we were both stamp collectors.

That first trip to Bendigo seemed to be over almost as soon as it began, as was the trip home that night. It seemed as the months passed that we never ran out of things to talk about, indeed, despite where we had just been, stamps featured fairly low down on the list of topics. On the homeward trip, on several occasions we were so engrossed in whatever topic we were discussing that we almost missed the freeway exit to Kyneton, once actually having to back up to the exit ramp.

Lyle was involved in the local U3A and when a few of them decided to try to form a stamp club, Lyn and Lyle generously offered their home as a venue, with tea and scones supplied by Lyn after the meeting ended. The club only lasted less than a year as there was a minimum number required to keep the U3A endorsement and reaching that target consistently proved difficult in a fairly small town.

When Lyle and Lyn moved house to Tocumwal (literally - they transported the house they were living in up to the new block), it was brought back to me quite forcefully how long the trip to the club was when there was no friend to share the journey. Fortunately, they kept coming down to Bendigo for club nights but there was less chance for the long conversations we had enjoyed in the past.

When my car tried to prove that Top Gear were right in their assessment, I missed a couple of club meetings as the car kept constantly breaking down. After three months of methodically replacing part after part, I finally found the problem and fixed it. The part had arrived on the morning before the stamp club meeting and I fitted it right there at the post office after picking it up. I couldn't wait until the next day to tell Lyle how the problem had been solved as quite frankly, he was the only person I could think of who would be genuinely interested having been involved in the saga for so long.

It was not to be. Later that morning, Lyn phoned me to say that Lyle had died suddenly that morning from a heart attack. My kind and generous friend had gone and I am still trying to put the loss into some sort of perspective. It hurts not to have been able to have said goodbye and to realise that I had never expressed to him how much I valued his friendship and wise counsel. Yet, I realise that my loss is tiny compared to what Lyn has to bear and my heart goes out to her, along with the expressed wishes of so many of the club members who knew them.

Farewell Lyle. This album is closed but we know that wherever you have gone will be brighter for your presence.

John Armstrong





## The amazing adventure of the Pentcho

When a stamp is soaked from its envelope, as we have all done, we can lose so much without even realising that it is gone. This is what makes postal history such an interesting part of philately. Postmarks on an envelope can provide fascinating insights into how and where the envelope was carried and some philatelists are extremely knowledgeable in deciphering these.

My particular interest includes looking at the names on an envelope and trying to find out how much of their story I can find. The envelope at right is fairly rare as it was sent from the Ferramonti internment camp, an Italian internment camp used to intern political dissidents and ethnic minorities. It was located in the municipality of Tarsia, near Cosenza, in Calabria. It was the largest of the fifteen internment camps established by Benito Mussolini between June and September 1940. Over 3,800 Jews were imprisoned at the camp (Wikipedia).

Of more interest to me is the name of the sender shown on the back. Ladislav Quastler was a Jew from Czechoslovakia in a group of five hundred Jews trying to get to Israel to escape the Nazis. They bought an old river steamer which they named Pentcho and travelled down the Danube from Bratislava, intending to meet a ship at the Rumanian port of Sulina on the Black Sea. The trip was long and dangerous, including having to sail beneath the guns of a fortress manned by the Germans and the delays meant that they missed the ship.



*The Pentcho on the rocks after her boiler burst. All the passengers made it ashore and one of them took this photograph of the ship.*



*An envelope sent from Ferramonti Internment Camp to the Red Cross by Ladislav Quastler, a Czechoslovakian Jew.*



They were faced with either going on or returning. They chose to try to sail to Israel, even though their boat, the Pentcho, was only a small river paddle steamer. They were intercepted by the Italian Navy who informed them that they were in the middle of a minefield and escorted them to safety. Later on, their boiler failed and the ship was wrecked but they managed to get ashore on a rock island, from which they were again rescued by the Italian Navy and taken to Rhodes where for the next year they lived in a camp on the local football arena. Later they were shipped to the camp at Ferramonti di Tarsia where this letter was written. One family chose to stay in Rhodes with friends. When German troops took over the island, all the Jews on Rhodes were sent to Auschwitz.

## The amazing adventure of the Pentcho (cont.)

In her diaries, Mussolini's mistress, Clara Petacci claimed that he was a racist who approved of the German plan to annihilate the entire Jewish race. Though Mussolini was certainly no saint, this could be a lie driven by jealousy of his earlier mistress, Margherita Sarfatti, one of the founders of Fascism who helped him plan the March on Rome. She was Jewish. Most Italians were appalled by the German treatment of the Jews and in many cases actively hid or protected their Jewish neighbours. German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop complained to Benito Mussolini that "Italian military circles... lack a proper understanding of the Jewish question." The Ferramonti Jews would have been given to Ribbentrop as he requested if Mussolini had wished it.

One Pentcho survivor wrote:

"There were many many examples of Italian humanitarianism. They actually saved the Pentcho people four times - when we were led out of the mine-fields; when we were rescued from the island of Kamila-Nisi, after the ship sank; when we were transferred to Ferramonti (because the Jews of Rhodes, including one of our families who stayed there, were sent to Auschwitz); and their refusal to the Nazi Foreign Minister, Ribbentrop, to give the Jews of Ferramonti (summer of 1942) over to the Germans.

They stayed at Ferramonti until the Allied invasion took Southern Italy and in 1944, the Pentcho survivors were found berths on a ship and finally completed their journey to Israel.

Ladislav Quastler's name appears on the list of Pentcho survivors and on lists of internees at Ferramonti. He was 27 years old when the voyage started. His father is listed as Richard Quastler who is listed elsewhere as a survivor of a Nazi death camp.

Three other members of the Quastler family from Bratislava are named in the Shoah (Holocaust) lists. They were undoubtedly relatives. They were:

Adolf Quastler, murdered 1942 in Bratislava aged 62

Milan Quastler, son of Adolf, died at Majdanek death camp, Poland, aged 18.

Edit Quastler, daughter of Adolf, died at Auschwitz aged 16.



*The route taken by the Pentcho survivors from Bratislava to Rhodes*

## 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.

## 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.

Their marriage was getting a bit stale so she said, "Darling, let's go out tonight and have some fun".  
"Good idea," he said, "Why don't you visit your girlfriend and I'll mosey on down to the stamp club."





# 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

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