



# 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 2020



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



**PLEASE NOTE: ALL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

## President's Message July 2020

The months come the months go and now we reach into the second half of the year and winter is upon us

Although the pandemic is still with us things have got a little easier.

Lyn's project on the passing around of books is a godsend and I am sure we all thank her sincerely for her initiative.

The grapevine tells us that many of you are making up Exchange sheets and this is wonderful and assures our future when things get back to normal. Keep it up.

We have been advised that our daytime venue is available again but under very stringent conditions which would make it very hard to conduct our type of meeting.

I will discuss this offer with the committee and keep you informed. We have to seriously remember that we are basically an aged and therefore vulnerable group.

Our friends in the Warragul Stamp Club ran a successful mail auction and goods were purchased by some of our members.

Keep warm and safe and Happy Stamping 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.

**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*

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**Webmaster:** *David Robinson*

email: [ddusa@live.com.au](mailto:ddusa@live.com.au)

## Editor's Message: Welcome Arthur James Armstrong - our newest stamp collector (I hope!)



I would like to thank all those members and friends who have sent messages congratulating me on finally becoming a grandfather. Despite expectations, Arthur James Armstrong took his time in arriving, exceeding the doctor's prediction by about a week. He arrived at 9.43am on the 29th of May 2020, slotting in between my birthday and that of my daughter on the 28th. For those who like statistics, he was 4.09kg at birth, (that's about 10lb 4oz to most of us). Both mother and baby are doing fine and the father looks like the cat that got the cream. Then again, he had the easy part.





## No More Iceland Stamps

Iceland has announced that it is ceasing production of postage stamps and is closing its philatelic service. They will continue to use up existing stocks and if the need arises may reprint some issues but there will be no new issues in the future.

As postal authorities are struggling to match their service to the economic realities this may be the first of many countries to follow suit and, after all, do we really need stamps these days?



*Iceland, the country that once gave us stamps like this will no longer do so.*

While working at my local post office last year, I did a survey and apart from Christmas and pensioner discounted mail, only about 5% of the letters I sorted and even less parcels carried stamps. In Australia, a lot of post offices have been closed and replaced by licencees in the local store. Many of these refuse to sell stamps and only have a labeling machine. There is a good reason for this. The store has to pay for stamps in advance whereas the machine labels are billed monthly. Even those who sell stamps, rarely carry stock of the highest values. A sheet of fifty \$20 stamps is a huge outlay for something that is rarely needed.

So why do we need so many new issues which still keep appearing by the hundreds? This can only be a fairly crass ploy on the part of the post authorities to milk as much as they can out of the collecting fraternity before the whole thing goes belly up.

Iceland's postal marketing director remarked, "If the government feels that it's culturally important to continue issuing new stamps, Iceland Post is ready to continue to do so. But before that, there must be a negotiation with the government of how the cost is covered. Iceland Post simply cannot continue to cover the cost of releasing stamps."

Here in Australia, where we are reduced to issues featuring American cartoon characters, it would be hard to justify the continuation of stamp production using cultural arguments. Even so, a slower issue rate featuring genuinely Australian images would probably be welcomed by collectors everywhere.

Meanwhile, we can only mourn as Iceland closes their album.





## News from Paul Brownlie

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, delays are to be expected. Note that this page only lists suspended routes that are known to not accept letter-post items (eg: letters & postcards).

The following countries have suspended all their international mail operations: Algeria, Bolivia, Botswana, British Virgin Islands, Chad, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Honduras, India, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, South Africa, Suriname, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, and Zimbabwe.



Members might be interested in this postmark which is nearly twenty years old now. This prepaid envelope was overprinted for the opening of Bendigo's Golden Dragon museum. The museum celebrates the Chinese history in the area, which was extensive. At one stage during the gold rush, almost a third of the population of Victoria was Chinese though many of them returned to China in later years.

They were often resented by the European "diggers", partially due to the patient way they could rework a claim that was considered spent and still extract workable amounts of gold.



*Garden at the Golden Dragon Museum*



This resentment flared to violence at times and even murder. Recent evidence has suggested that the Chinese were mining gold, mainly in Queensland, anything up to four hundred years before the arrival of Captain Cook.

The Museum is home to an extensive collection of Chinese Dragons including the oldest and longest Imperial Dragons in the world.





I came across the box for the 2015 “Custodians of the Game” boxed set. It was a bit of a lottery. As the advertising said, “As there is limited mintage for each coin set, you will have to try your luck, as you will not discover what coin set you have purchased until you receive it.

Each collection will include:

25mm (d) Fine Proof Silver Frosted Uncirculated Coin (Mass 11.66g)

Unique set of 10 Trading Cards highlighting key moments in time from the 2015 season – housed in display case

First ever League branded perforated stamp, with unique postmark on a maxicard showing images from throughout the 2015 season

Displayed in a full colour display box including a unique numbered certificate from the Royal Australian Mint. An unprecedented opportunity, a tiny number of sets are defined by a premium inclusion!

1 in 10 sets comprises a pure silver \$1 coin featuring the colours of the 2015 AFL Premiers, Hawthorn!

1 in 75 sets features a gold-plated pure silver \$1 coin

1 in 25 sets contains a ‘signature pack’ of ten officially licensed AFL cards

1 in 10 sets includes a Hawthorn maxicard with a gold postmark.”

Both AFL & NRL had 5000 each sets released at \$120.00 each, and included footy cards from Select Australia.

There were 4433 Silver UNC coins, 500 coloured silver coins & 67 silver, gold plated coins in each type.

Therefore there were 10000 maxicards issued with the 70c stamps, duly half each overprinted AFL or NRL.

One in 10 had gold postmarks, thus equalling 1000.

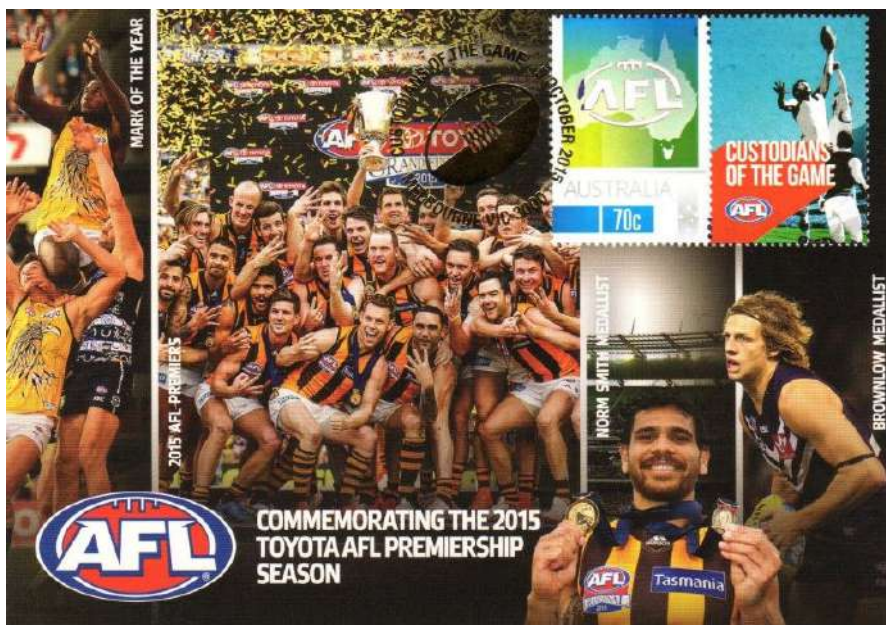
So 5,000 stamps with AFL and 5000 NRL printed on a 2014 issued stamp.

That certainly warrants an issue of its own, but maybe that quantity doesn't fulfil Auspost criteria as a new issue.

Only matter now is the change in year to be resolved.

Yours in Philately

Paul



*The AFL maxicard showing the specially printed stamp.  
An equivalent issue was made for the NRL.*

## **Watermarks and Perforations**

I have never particularly liked 'watermarks' as, more often than not, they are sometimes very, very difficult to make out no matter how you try to see them. Yes, there are some easy watermarks to see whilst others remain virtually hidden.

In contrast to this I have always enjoyed 'different perforations'. Once you have a Perforation Gauge then through careful positioning of the stamp on the Gauge you can work out the perforation. A catalogue will often give a fair indication of the perforation or range of perforations used on a stamp (or set).

One series of very interesting stamps from a perforation point is the double set issued on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1896 by Japan to commemorate Japan's victory over China in the First Sino-Japanese War of 1894-5.

Two sets of two stamps (i.e. four in total) comprise this series. Each set consists of a 2 Sen Rose and a 5 Sen Ultramarine. One set shows a portrait of Prince Kitashirakawa and the other of Prince Arisugawa Tarhito, both of the Imperial Family, who served with great distinction in the war which resulted in Korea being annexed by the Empire of Japan.

I have over 28 copies of each stamp (112 in total) and so far I have found the following perforations:

10.75 x 11.75	11.50 x 12.50	13
11.50 x 11.00	12.00 x 11.50	13.00 x 11.75
11.5	12.00 x 12.50	13.00 x 12.00
11.50 x 12.00	12.5	

- perhaps more will be found with more stamps?

The stamps have an inscription in English: Imperial Japanese Post. Both sets are quite attractive. Mint/Muh sets are worth \$50 to \$150, whilst used stamps are around \$15-\$30 for four. I much prefer the used stamps as some of the cancellations can be interesting.



Grey Loyer

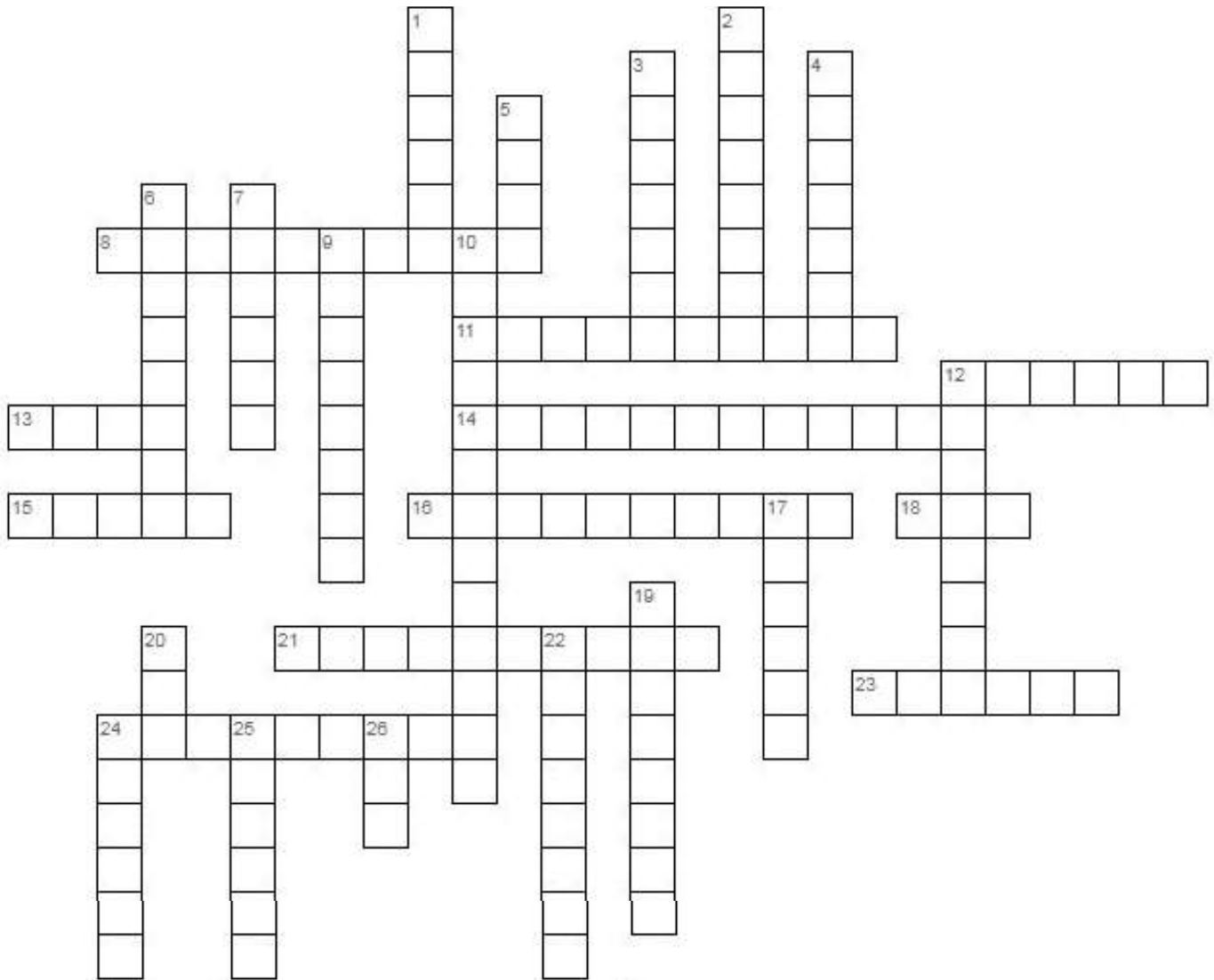
Hon. Secretary

Maryborough Stamp Club (Vic).

## **Attention: Collectors of New Zealand Stamps**

Margaret Brown has informed us that the album of New Zealand stamps that belong to the club has been returned to her. If any member is interested in looking through these, Margaret's contact details are on page one.

## Philatelic Terms



### Across

- 8 American term for added tax
- 11 More secure
- 12 Yucky brown stains
- 13 Like new
- 14 Swiss fund for children
- 15 Submitted design
- 16 Looks like a stamp
- 18 First Day Cover
- 21 Two Countries, one design (5,5)
- 23 Strip between two panes
- 24 Philatelists hate these (3,6)

### Down

- 1 Upside down
- 2 Bulk stamps
- 3 Should be quicker
- 4 Tax
- 5 Sold from a machine
- 6 Switzerland
- 7 Half a stamp
- 9 OS
- 10 Collecting airmail
- 12 German wartime field post
- 17 Something to stick a stamp on
- 19 Cheap for business (4,4)
- 20 Image engraved on metal
- 22 Joined Pair (2,6)
- 24 Full of holes
- 25 Type of paper
- 26 Cancelled To Order

Answers on page 10



**June Collage Challenge: Which stamps did all these characters come from.**



# base stamp







**(REDUCED**

Well, how did you go? A lot of these had me tossed, I can tell you. I look forward to hearing from anyone who tried this. Email the editor. The address is on page one.

## Lois Whatley Competition

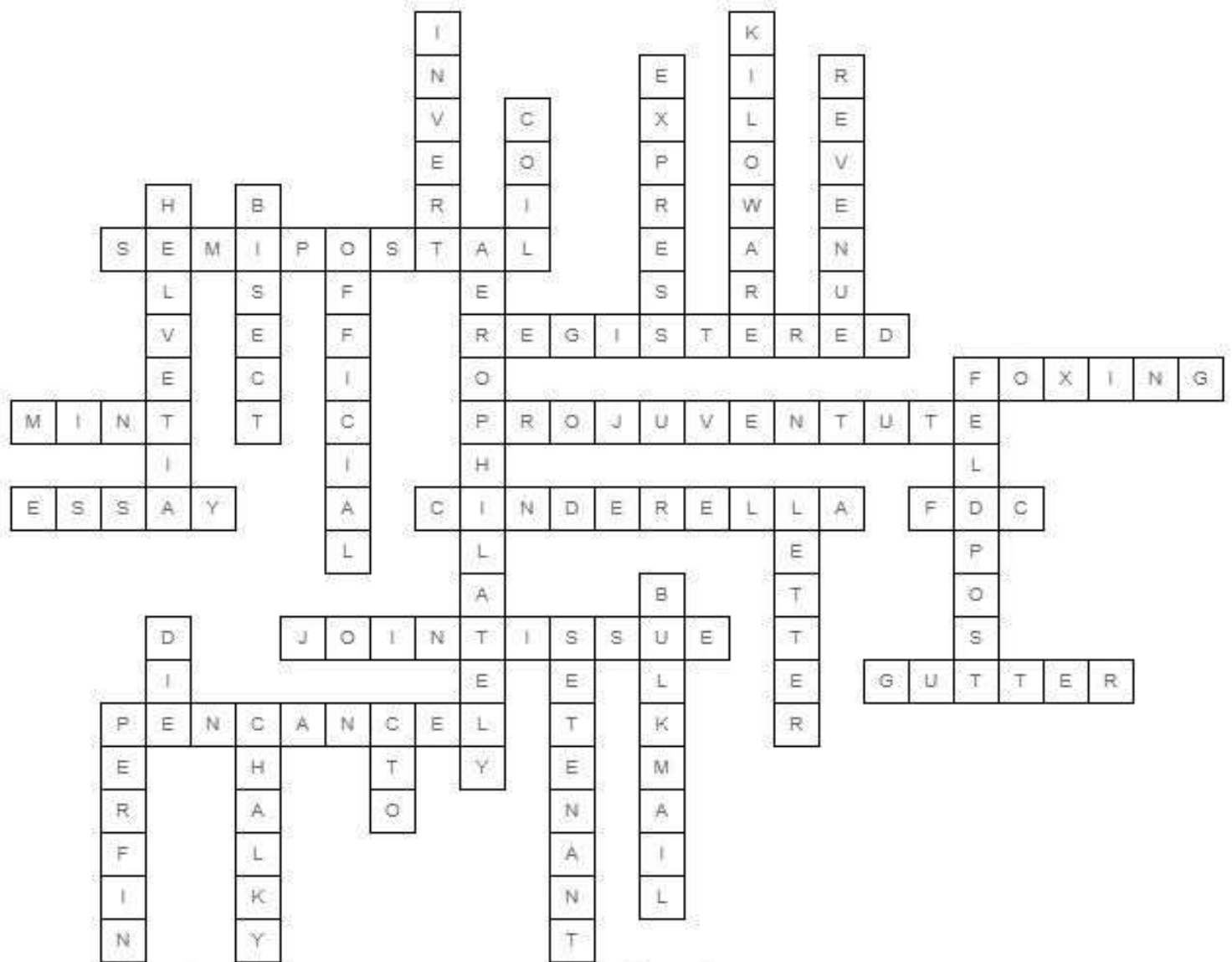
David Cotton has pointed out that clue number 43 for this year's Lois Whatley competition seems to have wandered off and got lost somewhere. If found, please return to this address so it can be returned to our members.

Editor.

43

*Police identikit  
image of the  
missing number*





### A Little Sunshine

For those members who would normally be heading for the sun at this time of the year, here is a little reminder of what you are missing.

This postcard from Coolangatta shows it some years ago. When your editor first went through the town in 1965, even these buildings didn't exist.

How things have changed in one lifetime!





# **BENDIGO Stamp Fair**

**Saturday  
8th August 2020**  
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.bendigophilatelicociety.org](http://www.bendigophilatelicociety.org)

**Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Bill Trew**

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