



# The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 91<sup>st</sup> year

**October 2021**



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

## Diary of Future Events

Tuesday October 5 Night Meeting is Cancelled.

AGM and Lois Whatley Competition to be held at White Hills (see below)

## President's Message October 2021

Dear Fellow Members,

Another month has passed and we unfortunately are still not able to get together.

As our Annual General Meeting is now due, we have decided to hold our AGM in the open air in the White Hills 'Garden of the Future', the entrance is from Bousquet Street, and pray that we have a nice day weather wise. The Meeting will be held at 2pm on our normal meeting date, Tuesday the 5th of October.

BYO refreshments, a chair, and sun block or an umbrella !!! whatever is appropriate. We will have to congregate in groups of 10, closely together so we can hear each other.

Attendance would be appreciated and we promise to keep the Meeting as brief as possible.

On this day we will collect all the Lois Whatley entries for judging if you cannot attend and have an entry, please contact me and I will arrange to have your entry picked up, after all you have to be in it, to win it.

The next item is we all need to pay our Subscription - \$30.00 per person or if a couple - \$45.00. This will ensure we receive our Monthly Newsletter and the wonderful surprise boxes of stamps that we all love.

Now to the celebrations. At this stage we have to postpone our 90th Anniversary Dinner, well the 2020 Olympics were held in 2021, so why not have the Dinner in 2022 !!!

Another couple of members have celebrated their Birthdays recently.

"Happy Birthday"

Paul was on 21st July and Andrew 13th September we do hope they both had a lovely day on their special days. Remember if I don't know, when it is your Birthday I cannot put it in the newsletter.

My apologies for the lateness of this newsletter, we were all waiting to hear our road map on COVID 19, however not a lot has changed.

Let me finish with my little phrase by saying TAKE CARE we CARE and you are all important.

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**

*Auctions* will be held at all Tuesday meetings.

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

Christmas bonanza auction in **December** .

Exchange sheets will no longer be circulated at meetings. Please see Lyn to access sheets at home.

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

### CLUB CONTACTS:

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## News from Paul Brownlie

Last month I asked members for any self adhesive Koala count examples. Jim Garden has sent me these four.



Thanks, Jim.



How many of us who receive the Australia Post stamp bulletin would have thought to put aside the envelope that they came in. If you check the price that these are being sold for on eBay, you may be very surprised. I was!

There are many traps awaiting the unwary or uninformed philatelist when they venture into the shark-infested waters of online sales. Currently, a good example of this are the the “issues” shown at right. These are pure fantasy labels produced in alarming quantities, apparently by a forger in Taiwan and offered to philatelists on eBay.

Unlike the more reputable sites, such as Hipstamp and Delcampe where this sort of thing is not tolerated, eBay does little to discourage the spivs as long as the money keeps flowing their way. Those who are familiar with the era that these pretend to be from will tell you that there were never issues with two monograms and the design appears to be a combination of a duty stamp and the “rabbit ears” kangaroo and map design.

Forged overprints are common online as are re-perforations, re-gummed stamps and forged postmarks in those cases where used is more valuable than mint. Clearly, knowledge *is* power and the message is clear.

Only buy from dealers and sites you trust, particularly expensive items which should preferably have a certificate.



You don't need to be as passionate about engraved stamps as our editor to appreciate the many Australian replica cards produced by Australia Post. The quality of these is very high, the reason being that they are printed using the original stamp dies, but in different colours.

Some of the colours don't quite work as well as the originals in my opinion, for instance, the Navigators shown below which seem a bit wishy-washy by comparison to the originals or the Centenary of Victoria which I find a bit gaudy.



*Navigators Series 1963-64*



*Centenary of Victoria Stamps 1934*



The centenary of European settlement in Victoria was commemorated by the issue of three postage stamps in July 1934. The stamps were issued in three denominations, 2d, 3d and 1s and the design featured an aborigine of the Yarra Yarra tribe facing the modern city of Melbourne. The designs and engraving of the stamp was the work of Mr Frank Manley of the Note Printing Branch.

*Royal Exhibition Building Melbourne, 21-30 September, 1934*

Reproduced with special permission of Australia Post.

*Unissued Australian Stamps 1914*



These two stamps were prepared for use and were intended to be part of a series of stamps to replace the 1913 'Kangaroo and Map' stamp series. The new series commenced with the issue of a 1d stamp featuring King George V and a 6d stamp depicting a kookaburra, issued in 1913 and 1914 respectively. However, the outbreak of World War I and other factors caused the series to be terminated. Trial printings had been made of the 2d and 1s stamps, but the two stamps were never issued. The above reproductions of the stamp designs have been produced using the original master dies.

Reproduced with special permission of Australia Post

Nevertheless, if you can't afford a £2 Navigator or an original proof of the unissued designs without selling off the family jewels, these might suit you.

While some countries destroyed their dies once an issue was superseded, in Australia they were stored in the archives, allowing them to be used for projects such as these. Australia Post have also released high quality black prints in books which though being quite expensive are real works of art and well worth the money.



I usually focus on Australian issues but as some of our members are interested in lighthouse stamps, I'll show these which have just been released in the US, depicting lighthouses on the mid-atlantic coast. The pane of 20 stamps celebrates five historic lighthouses: Montauk Point, NY; Navesink, NJ; Erie Harbor, PA; Harbor of Refuge, DE; and Thomas Point Shoal, MD.



When we talk about bonsai, we usually think of old Japanese pines or other plants from the Northern Hemisphere. You may be surprised to see our own native trees being given that treatment on this rather splendid mini-sheet.



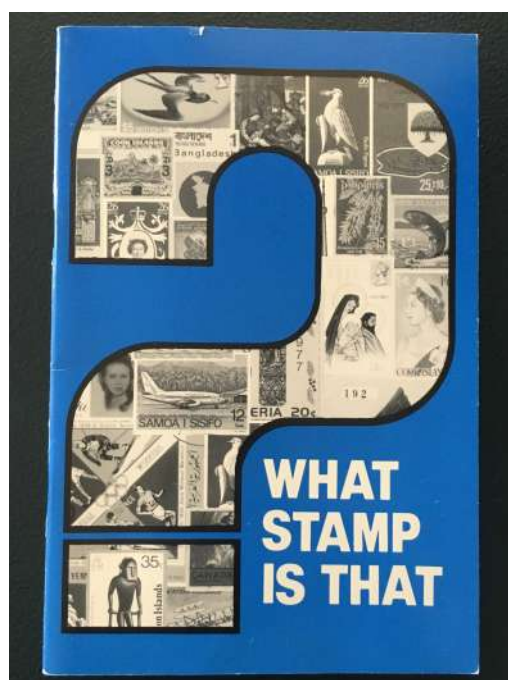
I'm sure we can all remember Ginger Meggs from our younger days, that rascally but quintessentially Australian young rogue. Australia Post and the Royal Australian Mint have combined to produce stamps, covers and coins (don't expect these in your change as they are unissued) to bring those memories back for the centenary of the character's creation. I hope your memories are fond ones.  
 Yours in philately,  
 Paul



# Bendigo Philatelic Society Library

## What stamp is that ?

Published by Seven Seas Stamps P/L Dubbo NSW Australia - BPS 0011



"What stamp is that?" is a publication designed to assist the stamp collector to identify stamps in their collection.

Some stamps can appear confusing both to the beginner and also the more advanced collector, especially stamps from the Middle East and Asian countries.

This publication is designed to aid the reader with examples from many countries and is arranged in alphabetical order. As an example, a beginner may find a stamp inscribed HELVETIA, very difficult to identify, but after a look through this publication you will soon discover this stamp issue is from Switzerland.

The stamps of Great Britain do not carry the country name but will all carry a portrait of the reigning monarch. Some stamps can be a little easier to decipher such as stamps issued from Ceskoslovensko (Czechoslovakia), Eire (Ireland) or Italia (Italy).

The suggested method of using this book is summarised as follows :)

1. Try to match the inscription with the nearest English version. eg: Romina -(Rumania)
2. Associate the inscription with an area and try those countries first.
3. Check through the illustrations or the test for a similar inscription.

This handy publication also contains a list of overprints on stamps, numerals of the various languages, inscriptions used on stamps and currencies used around the world. All of which will assist the collector in identifying stamps which could be otherwise hard to identify.

This publication can be borrowed using our library code BPS 0011

[Our library stocks an extensive range of books, leaflets & magazines, which are available to members.](#)

[Please contact me, David Robinson on 0428 821 221 or email me at \[ddusa@live.com.au\]\(mailto:ddusa@live.com.au\)](#)

## Maryborough Club Auction

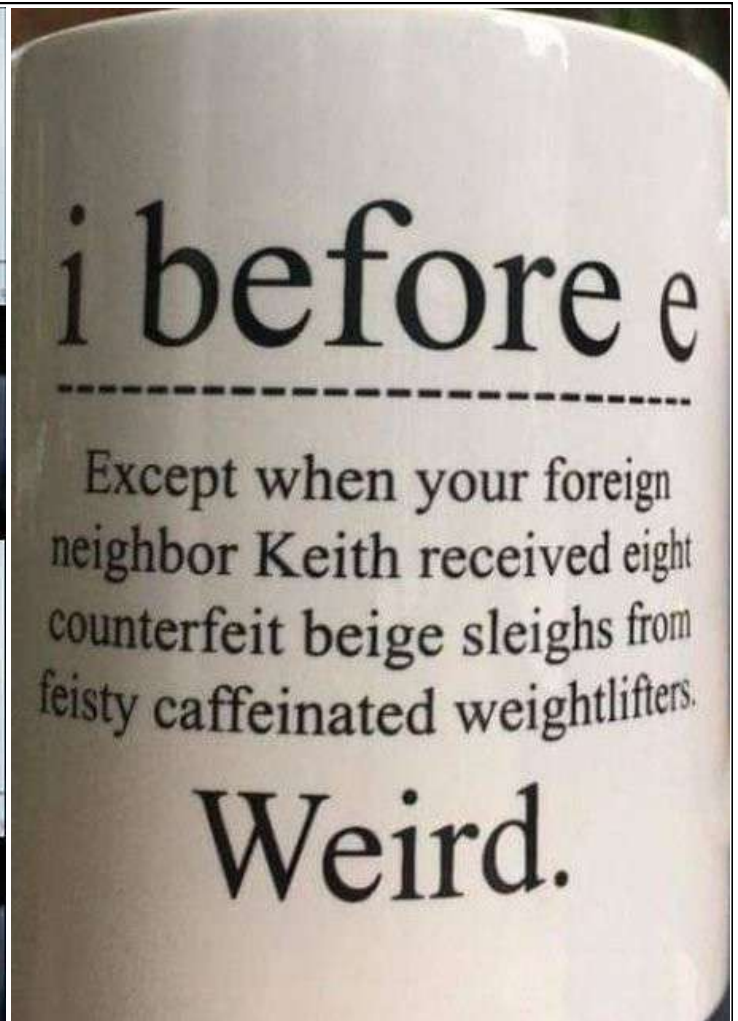
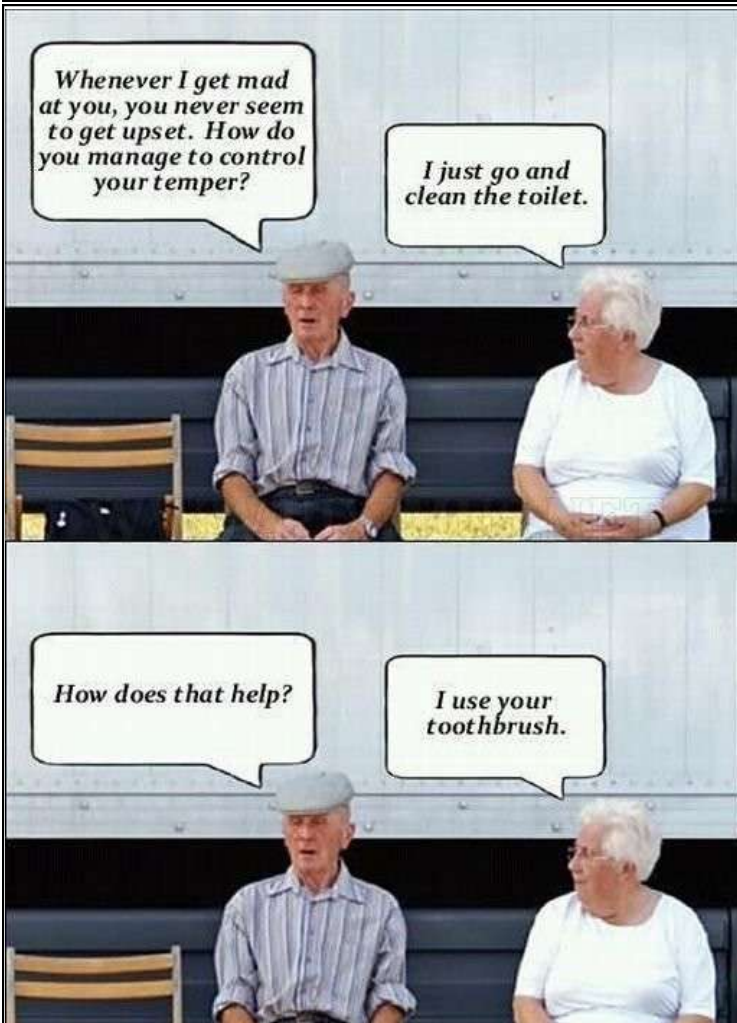
The Annual Club Auction has been altered to Tuesday, 9th November, 2021. This is due to the 'continuing uncertainty and general concern over the Covid pandemic' and to the fact that presently only 20 are allowed to attend. It would be hoped by November these rules/regulations may change.

Also, it was agreed to allow 'extra' auction lots to be brought along to the auction on the night. Each lot would command a 'late' fee of 20 cents per item, whether sold or unsold. A list to be provided by the seller, and the usual 5% commission to be taken on any lot/s sold. Grey Loyer: [gloyer@live.com.au](mailto:gloyer@live.com.au) or phone 5460 5008.



So there I was sat in my van

I had kept the house under surveillance for about an hour. Then there was movement at the front door. I hunched down as much as I could in the van so the woman wouldn't see me. As she walked up the road and turned the corner I slowly, carefully exited the van. I crossed the road, nervously, aware that at any time someone could notice me or the woman from the house could come back. I launched myself over the garden wall and fell to the ground. My heart was beating in anticipation of someone shouting out to me. I crawled slowly to the door. Once there I looked around once more to check my surroundings. Then I lifted the letterbox slowly and quietly. Once my work was done, I slowly closed the letter box aware that any sound might disturb someone and make them come to the door. I then jumped up and ran for my life, jumped into the van and drove off at speed away from the scene. And another 'Sorry you were out' card is successfully delivered. Proud to be a postman!



A little humour "borrowed" from Stampboards

## The Irish overprints of 1922

Perhaps because my great-grandfather was from Ireland, I've always been quite fond of Irish stamps, especially the early issues. After independence, British stamps were overprinted for some time and these can be quite tricky to sort, particularly the 1922 overprints where there is some difficulty determining the colour of the ink used. I came across this 1968 newsletter from The Revealer which I found very helpful so I thought it was worth sharing. Apart from the philatelic value, it is a reminder of how far our personal printers have come since the days of the typewriter.



# The Revealer



Vol. XIX, No. 1

ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION  
(International)

Oct-Dec. 1968

Whole No. 95

Issued Quarterly

John J. Walsh, Editor



## Thom 5 Line Overprints Black Overprints

By the EDITOR.

When the Provisional Government of Ireland contracted for its first provisional issue of postage stamps, the work of overprinting was divided between Messrs Dollard Ltd. and Messrs Alex Thom & Co., both of Dublin. The first issue was released February 17, 1922. Both the Dollard and Thom prints were in black ink. Thom printed four of the values, 1 1/2d, 2d, 6d and 1/- (Scott Nos. 15-18; Gibbons Nos. 10-15).

Sometime in June 1922, Thom was assigned the task of overprinting all of the values, including those formerly done by Messrs. Dollard. The reason for the change is not clear. Dollard's contract was terminated on June 12th, 1922 (1) without explanation. Thom's plant was located some distance from the area of Dublin occupied by the I.R.A. which was engaged in civil strife with the Provisional Government. Dollard was located in the vicinity of the Four Courts building which had been seized by the I.R.A. in April 1922. Dollard's plant was evacuated during the shelling of the Four Courts in late June 1922. (2)

Quite apart from the reason for the change to Thom, the postal authorities had not been satisfied with the black overprint of either Dollard or Thom. They complained that it was not distinguishable enough for the postal officers to detect the use of unoverprinted British stamps on the mail. (3)

When Thom took over the overprinting of all values on or about June 12, 1922 it used its own distinctive type (with full stop) rather than the Dollard type for the values thru 1/-. For the 2/6, 5/- and 10/- values, it used the Dollard type (distinguishable by the measurement between the h and E of Eireann). At the same time (June 1922), Thom was experimenting with various inks. Apparently, a few sheets of the former Dollard values of 1/2d, 1d, 3d, 10d and 5/- were overprinted in the same shade of dull black or what some call dull grey-black (4) used on the original issue of February 17, 1922.

Then trial printings were made on certain values with a blue-black ink to be distinctive from the cancelling black. These experimental inks were not satisfactory and were not distinct enough, so Thom finally developed a "bronze-blue" ink which was both clear and outstanding. This ink was finally chosen and resulted in what we call generally the "blue-black" issue of July-November 1922.

(1) Kohl's Handbuch. Zervas translation. Collector's Club Philatelist April 1941, page 135

(2) William Ward. Mekeel's Magazine. November 23, 1936

(3) Messrs Dollard converted to red ink on its 2 1/2d, 4d and 9d values in April 1922 for the same reason.

(4) Robson Lowe Encyclopedia. Vol. 2 1952

(continued on page 685)

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THOM "BLACK" OVERPRINTS (continued)

The black proofs and the experimental sheets got into circulation in the summer of 1922 and "from this trial, most of the cataloguers have fallen into an error of dubbing all the non-black inks as 'blue-black'." (5)

While the intensity of the ink finally chosen varies in degree during its extended use, it is always shiny, a distinct lustre dark blue, whereas the experimental trial blue blacks are dull and look like what they are - blue-black (5). If these overprints are compared with a true bronze-blue overprint they look black, but when compared with the early blacks which were in a dull grey-black ink - they appear to be bronze-blue, but not to the same strength as the really bronze-blue overprints. (6)

In summary, while the dull experimental blue-blacks should not be confused with the rare black trial proofs (7) they are collectible varieties, distinguishable from the subsequent shiny blue-blacks, or if you prefer accuracy, bronze-blues.

EXPERIMENTAL SHEETS RELEASED

During the time when Thom was experimenting with its inks, a shortage occurred in the post office supplies of certain values of stamps formerly supplied by Dollard. Thom was called upon to supply whatever values it had available and it is logical to assume that the requisitions included the few proof sheets in black as well as the experimental sheets in dull blue-black. They were perfectly usable sheets of stamps.

Any attempt to designate these sheets as a separate issue is virtually impossible because of the intermixing of these sheets with subsequent deliveries of the shiny blue-blacks in the post office stores. When the printers made deliveries to the Comptroller, the sheets were placed on top of the pile in each value and as requisitions were received from the various post offices, they would be filled from the top of the pile. As an example, the shortage of the 1d value in the autumn of 1922 was remedied by sheets of the Dollard overprint which were at the bottom of the pile. This was long after they were current on the post office counters. (8)

Meredith gives the following dates of issue: 1/2d black (end of July, 1922) 1/2d blue-black (August 23, 1922). 1d black and blue-black (July 20, 1922). 3d black and blue-black (July 11, 1922).

It is interesting that while the 1/2d and 3d dull black proof printings are usually priced in the catalogues both mint and used, the 1d, 10d and 5/- values are priced only mint in Gibbons. (9)

(5) William Ward. Mekeels Magazine. March 8, 1937

(6) F.R.A. McCormick. Stamp Collecting. February 3, 1923

(7) "After three years of special dealing, I feel I should offer one warning to our members. 99% of all the supposed dull black overprints I have seen have had obvious traces of blue in them under 40X magnification. I sincerely believe that method of holding the stamp up to bright sunlight to catch the blue reflection or lack of same to be highly subjective. I feel that if a stamp obviously shows blue ink under magnification it should not be called a dull black ink". Letter from John B. Sherman to the Editor May 1968.

(8) William Ward. "The Reissued Irish Dollards" Mekeel's Magazine. December 28th 1936. See also Stamp Collecting September 12, 1931, page 640 wherein the same author reported that he had visited the Controller's stock in Dublin on one occasion and noticed at the bottom of the 2 1/2d Thom value sheets, old Dollard carmine sheets in the same value. "Supplies had come and gone without the bottom sheets being exhausted."

(9) "I have serious doubts about the existence of Scott No. 37a (Gibbons #45a, the 5/- dull black). All the copies I have seen have either been #13 (5/- Dollard) with 21mm overprint (Short 3rd line) or #37 with a dull blue-black overprint whose blue ink fairly hits you in the eye under 40X magnification" J.B. Sherman  
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## Quote of the month

"When a man says he'll do something, he will do it.

There is no need to keep reminding him every six months."

