



The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Founded 1931

April 2023

Web page: www.bendigophilatelic.org



Diary of Future Events

Tues. 4th Apr Club Dinner at the National Hotel, Pearl Room

Tues. 2nd May Geoff Crawford - Crime and Stamps

President's Message April 2023

At our March Meeting we handed in our "Lois Whatley" Treasure Hunt Entries. Four members entered. The entries have been judged by Joy and Margaret together. It's quite appropriate as March is the Academy Awards. And the winner is!!! You will have to wait till the announcement at the Annual Dinner.

Now to our Annual Dinner. Our members are very slack, they have not replied to our acting secretary Jo, if they will be attending or not attending. Could you all please give her the courtesy of a yes or no. That would be appreciated, Thank you.

Just in case you don't know the Dinner is on Tuesday 4th April, 2023 at the National Hotel, Pearl Room commencing at 6pm.

At our last meeting Joy Watters handed in her resignation as Secretary due to ill health. We all thank Joy for all her contributions to the club as Secretary and wish her the very best with her treatment. Thank you Joy and all my love, Libby.

That brings us to the subject of Secretary! We now need someone to put their hand up to be the club's Secretary. Jo Raw has been jumping in to fill the position, for which we are very grateful, but due to other commitments she will not be able to take it on permanently. However she will be there to help at any time she can. Thank you, Jo - very much appreciated. If anyone is interested in being Secretary, could they please contact me.

Our Birthday Boy for the month of April is David Somerton on the 9th. "Happy Birthday!"

Let me finish with my little phrase to all members of our philatelic family.

TAKE CARE, WE CARE, and you are all important Libby.



Thank you Maree Edwards and staff for the printed copies of this newsletter.

The general monthly meetings of the BPS are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at

**Kangaroo Flat R.S.L.
Station St. Kangaroo Flat**

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:

President: Libby Luke ph: 0448 120 066

Vice-president: David Somerton

Treasurer: Margaret Brown

email: mabrown@bigpond.net.au

Newsletter Editor, Webmaster: John Armstrong

email: jjarmstrong47@hotmail.com

Librarian: David Robinson

email: ddusa@live.com.au

Fair Coordinator: Paul Brownlie

Postcards to the front

As the war against Ukraine drags on with its horrific loss of life on both sides as well as the destruction of countless homes, it is not unusual for people here to wish there was something they could do to support those defending their country. Bendigonians can feel proud of our Bushmasters that have been credited with saving many lives since we sent them to Ukraine. However, at a personal level, there has been little an individual could do - until now.

The ABC recently told the story of Peter Ramadge who sends postcards with words of encouragement to soldiers on the frontline in Ukraine. He was asking for others to send similar messages, care of himself, to be bundled up and sent to his contact, Tamara Levit in Zaporizhia who runs a group called Postcards to the Front. The cards are distributed with other supplies.

As Peter said, "I know the Australian government is sending Bushmasters to them and funds, but I think there is power in bringing it down to one-to-one. To know there is this dude in Australia called Peter who sent me a postcard saying, 'I'm behind you guys', I think that is really powerful." Ms Levit said, "Even the strongest men are crying when they read some of them. People need the psychological support sometimes more than food."

After reading the article, it seemed to me that this was a project that many of our members might embrace. I contacted Peter and received a very enthusiastic response to the idea. If you would like to be involved, find a card, write a message on it (you don't need to address it so use the whole back if you like) and bring the card to our meetings where I will collect them and send them on to Peter. He has also produced a flyer with his contact details for those who get our newsletter but don't attend our meetings.



Ukrainian soldiers with some of the postcards they have received. Photo - Tamara Levit

The full ABC article can be found at www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-13/postcards-to-the-front-australians-send-messages-ukrainian-troops/102081252?



What do you think of the War in Ukraine?

President Zelenskyy of Ukraine when offered an escape route by the USA said.

I don't need a ride; I need more ammunition.

Tamara Levit founder of *Postcards to the Front* when offered money for her cause said.

We don't need money. All we need are more postcards.

Postcards to the Front hand deliver messages of support to maintain morale for troops at the frontline fighting the Russian invaders.

My name is Peter Ramadge and I am the representative of *Postcards to the Front* in Australia.

What do you have to do? Buy a postcard and write an uplifting message of support to one of the *defenders of Ukraine*. Use the entire back of the card, No address is required on individual cards. Mention you are from Australia; this really cheers them up. Remind them that the world hasn't forgotten them.

Please do not use the word **PEACE**. This word has acquired a new meaning in Ukraine. When the Russians invaded, they told people they were doing this for peace. The word now conjures up images of people being killed, and property being destroyed.

If you are having problems finding a postcard (yes, very old technology) you can purchase them from Postcards from Australia Postcards <https://www.australiapostcards.com.au/allpostcards>

You can either place one or two cards in an envelope and post them to me

Alternatively you can collect finished cards from family and friends and send them to me in a single lot. Australia Post have a Prepaid Envelope which is a good option. A small DL prepaid envelope (Length: 240mm, Width: 130mm, Thickness: 5mm, Maximum weight 250 gm) is available for at \$14.15 for a 10 pack.). I am not sure of the price for a single envelope.

You can send them to me at either.

Postcards to the Front

3 Elgin St

Newport 3015

or

Postcards to the Front

PO Box 565

Williamstown 3016

drop them in my letter box at the above address if you are around Newport anytime.

They will be sent in bulk to **Tamara Levit** and the team in Zaporizhia, Ukraine. They will be hand delivered as part of a care package to *soldiers at the front*.

If you want to talk to me about *Postcards to the Front* the best contacts is

Email: ramadgpe@gmail.com

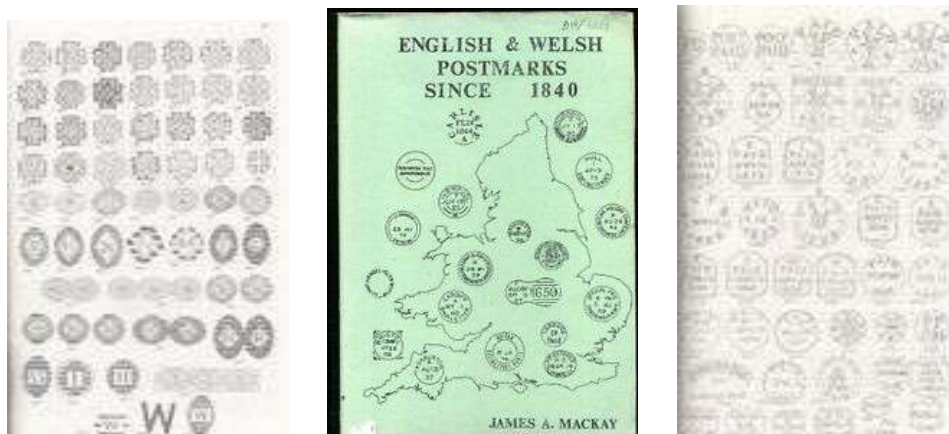
Bendigo Philatelic Society Library

Review by: David Robinson

ENGLISH & WELSH POSTMARKS-SINCE 1840

BY: JAMES A. MACKAY

Published by the Author 1980, in DUMFRIES, SCOTLAND



This comprehensive book spans the period since the inception of Uniform Penny Black Postage up until 1980 and deals with the postal markings, both hand struck and machine impressed, used in England and Wales. There are 352 pages with more than 4,500 illustrations. The author has on most occasions tried to match the illustration on a facing page with a description. The contents are split into fifty one sections from General Post through to special event postmarks with every conceivable type of cancellation included and, in most cases, shown.

Some of the areas that are included in this publication are.

- Handstamp designs & cancellations.
- Machine cancellation designs.
- Slogan cancellations.
- Too Late, Postage Since and Late Fee Stamps.
- Mail Registrations.
- Parcel Postmarks. Railway & Airmail Postmarks Naval & R.A.F. Postmarks
- Christmas Postmarks.



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

[Please contact me David Robinson email: ddusa@live.com.au](mailto:ddusa@live.com.au)

Bees - We can't live without them!

The news this week that further hives had been found in the Hunter Valley that were infected by the dreaded Varroa mite would have been greeted with some trepidation by the few members of our club who are also beekeepers. The discovery of three hives scattered over a wide area has meant that the exclusion zone has been extended enormously and the hundreds of hives within the new area will now be "euthanised". Despite the government's compensation plan, this can mean financial disaster for those commercial beekeepers who are affected as it can take years to rebuild, even if they deem that worthwhile.



For those who don't understand the problem, here is a quick summary. Varroa mite is a small flea-like insect that attacks honeybees, often fatally. It has spread around the world causing devastation to both the honey production and crop pollination industries but for years, Australia was the only country free of this pest due to its island geography and a vigorous national bio-security effort at all of our ports.

Then, a few years ago, the government cut the budget of a million dollars annually, for maintaining the traps at our ports (while at the same time budgeting billions for new submarines that we won't see for decades). This brought howls of outrage from beekeepers, orchardists and farmers who rely on bees to produce our food. A massive petition was sent to Canberra but all these negative reactions were ignored.



The Times view of the Australian bee lockdown.

The result? Just a couple of years later, varroa mite was detected near the port of Newcastle, possibly delivered on a ship from New Zealand. The horse had bolted with the stable door wide open.

An exclusion zone was declared around the port. All bees kept within that zone were killed in an attempt to stop the mite from spreading. Outside a further zone was declared where all bees were locked down and transport of hives was forbidden. The problem was that as well as beekeepers' hives, there are many feral colonies and it is almost impossible to find all of these. Add that to the fact that a bee might fly two or three kilometers from the hive in a search for nectar and it has been no surprise that the exclusion zones have been slowly widening. At the moment, they have not reached Victoria but come the Spring, it would be quite possible for a swarm to hitch a ride down on a truck.



My favourite bee stamp

The overseas experience has been that when the mite first strikes, it causes massive losses to agriculture and although, over time, responses have developed, they are both expensive and time consuming causing many people to leave the industry completely. Without bees, it is estimated that humans could not survive in anything like its present numbers. No wonder nearly every country has honoured bees on their stamps. Here are some examples.



Bees - We can't live without them!



Why is this person on a stamp No 16: Agustina de Aragon

Agustina Raimunda Maria Saragossa i Domènech or Agustina of Aragón (March 4, 1786 – May 29, 1857) was a Spanish heroine who fought to defend Spain against Napoleon's French army. Though much of her story has entered the realm of legend and is hard to confirm, there is no doubt that she inspired her compatriots, earning the name of the Spanish Joan of Arc.



Que valor! a plate in Francisco Goya's series, The Disasters of War

By 1808, Zaragoza was one of the few cities in Spain that had not fallen to the French but on June 15th that year, they made a determined attack on the city gates. When Agustina arrived on the battlements, carrying food for the defenders, she found a scene of carnage with many dead or dying and the remaining soldiers in retreat. Incensed at what she saw, she is said to have flung herself onto a cannon, loaded it and fired it at the advancing French soldiers. They were so surprised to be attacked by this slip of a girl, they pulled back while the retreating Spaniards seeing her actions turned and came back to support her. They won the day but a few weeks later, the French returned and after bloody house-to-house fighting causing many deaths on both sides, the city finally surrendered.

Agustina was captured and imprisoned during which time she saw her son, Eugenio killed by French guards. She escaped from the prison and led a band of guerrilla fighters in harassing the French troops. From then, history and legend become intertwined. She is said to have joined Wellington's forces where she became his only female officer, attaining the rank of captain and at the Battle of Vitoria, where the French army was finally defeated in Spain, she is said to have commanded a front line battery, though this is disputed by some historians. The poet, Lord Byron is said to have been travelling in Spain at the time and heard the story which he turned into several verses in his ballad, Childe Harold's Pilgrimage.

L.V.

Ye who shall marvel when you hear her tale,
Oh! had you known her in her softer hour,
Mark'd her black eye that mocks her coal-black veil,
Heard her light, lively tones in Lady's bower,
Seen her long locks that foil the painter's power,
Her fairy form, with more than female grace,
Scarce would you deem that Saragoza's tower
Beheld her smile in Danger's Gorgon face,
Thin the closed ranks, and lead in Glory's fearful
chase.

L.VI.

Her lover sinks—she sheds no ill-timed tear;
Her chief is slain—she fills his fatal post;
Her fellows flee—she checks their base career;
The foe retires—she heads the sallying host:
Who can appease like her a lover's ghost?
Who can avenge so well a leader's fall? [lost
What maid retrieve when man's flush'd hope is
Who hang so fiercely on the flying Gaul,
Foil'd by a woman's hand, before a batter'd wall?

Doesn't it feel weird to be the same age as old people?



MARYBOROUGH STAMP CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION

Tuesday, 9th MAY 2023 from 5.30pm

You are warmly invited to submit items into our Annual Auction to be held in St Augustine's Hall, Burke Street, Maryborough.

Anyone may submit up to 20 items. (No commission taken).

Please send a description of your item(s) to me **by 11th April 2023**.

Your description MUST include the Reserve Price which will be the STARTING PRICE.

Actual items preferred to be received by 11th April or shortly thereafter.

An Auction List will be forwarded by return email to anyone wanting one.

Light refreshments (at no charge) offered at end of Auction, especially for our friends from Bendigo, Ballarat and other 'travellers'.

Viewing from 5.30pm. Auction starts at 7pm (Red dot system used).

You will need to register upon arrival.

Any queries to Grey (5460 5008) or by email: gloyer@live.com.au

WARRNAMBOOL PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Gillin Park
42/45 Mahoneys
Warrnambool 3280
28th February 2023

To the Secretary,

The Warrnambool Philatelic Society invites you to a stamp auction and visitors night on Wednesday evening 19th of April 2023 at 7.00pm at:

**Hammond Fellowship Centre
Anglican Parish
Henna Street
Warrnambool Vic 3280**

This is our annual visitors night. In 2022 we had visitors from Hamilton and other clubs, due to COVID19 it was cancelled in other years. This year we have changed from November to April.

AUCTION WILL COMMENCE AT 7.30pm

Viewing of all lots on offer from **7.00pm or upon arrival**.
All visitors are invited to bring lots for the auction, please have all lots numbered using your initials as a prefix and a summary sheet giving number and a brief description of the lots. If possible, advice in advance of lots you have to offer so that we can provide sufficient table space.

The auction will be conducted along the lines of a 'coloured-dot' system.
Any person showing an interest in a particular item for auction, will place a coloured dot on the item. This will provide the auctioneer with knowledge of what is of interest to bidders. Any item that does not have coloured dot will not be auctioned. This will expedite the auction process and allow you to have refreshments and get home earlier.

Doors will open at 6.30pm. Please have your lots in prior to 7.00pm to allow sufficient time for lots to be viewed. Auction will commence at 7.30pm

We are inviting all clubs to join us on the 19th of April 2023.

Ample car parking at the venue.

Entry is free. There will be light refreshments available after the auction.

It will be appreciated if we could have a reply by the 10th of April to inform us as to the approximate number attending to enable us to organize the evening.

More information from **Daryl Smith** on Ph. 55651609 Mobile 0448487356 or **John van de Camp** on Ph. 55611470 if no answer leave a message.

Thanking you.
Yours sincerely

John van de Camp. Secretary
Secretary



BENDIGO

Stamp and Coin Fair

*In conjunction with
Bendigo Coin and Collectables Club Inc*

5th. August 2023

9.30 - 3.30

*Local & Melbourne
Stamp and Coin Dealers*

*Please Note New Venue
Prince of Wales*

Showgrounds

Holmes Rd, North Bendigo

Entry by gold coin donation appreciated

Bendigo Philatelic Society Inc

P.O. Box 962 Bendigo Central, Vic. 3552

www.bendigophilatelic.org

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Paul Brownlie

Email: newmarketeer@hotmail.com