



# The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J  
P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Founded 1931

September 2023

Web page: [www.bendigophilatelic.org](http://www.bendigophilatelic.org)



## Diary of Future Events

- Tues. 5th Sept. Danzig: Talk by Alex Stoneman
- Mon. 16th of Oct. Ballarat inter club daytime meeting and Auction commencing at 1pm.
- Tues. 3rd Oct. AGM

## President's Report September 2023

Don't the months go around quickly it only seems like yesterday I sat down to write the August Presidents Report.

Our stamp Fair was an outstanding success, all who attended had a wonderful day filled with stamps. Our thanks go to Paul for all his hard work, it sure paid off. We can now start the countdown to next year's fair.

This month we only have one person celebrating their Birthday, and it is Andrew on the 13th of September. I hope you have a wonderful day.

Our Next meeting is on the 5th of September, and we are going to be privileged to have Alex Stoneman give a talk on "Danzig". Danzig has had a very interest history which will be shown to us in stamps. Alex is an encyclopedia of stamps. His knowledge of Philately is brilliant.

The following month is our Annual General Meeting. All position becomes vacant. Anyone who is interested in taking on any position, or even be a committee Member, its now time to make that decision. Think about it!

My special thanks go to Toni, for filling in the secretarial position, whilst Jo was cruising, now it's Toni's turn to go on a cruise. Have a wonderful trip and we look forward to seeing you back in October.

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 to Jacinta Allan MP 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](mailto:mabrown@bigpond.net.au)

**Newsletter Editor, Webmaster: John Armstrong**  
email: [jjarmstrong47@hotmail.com](mailto:jjarmstrong47@hotmail.com)

**Librarian: David Robinson**  
email: [ddusa@live.com.au](mailto:ddusa@live.com.au)

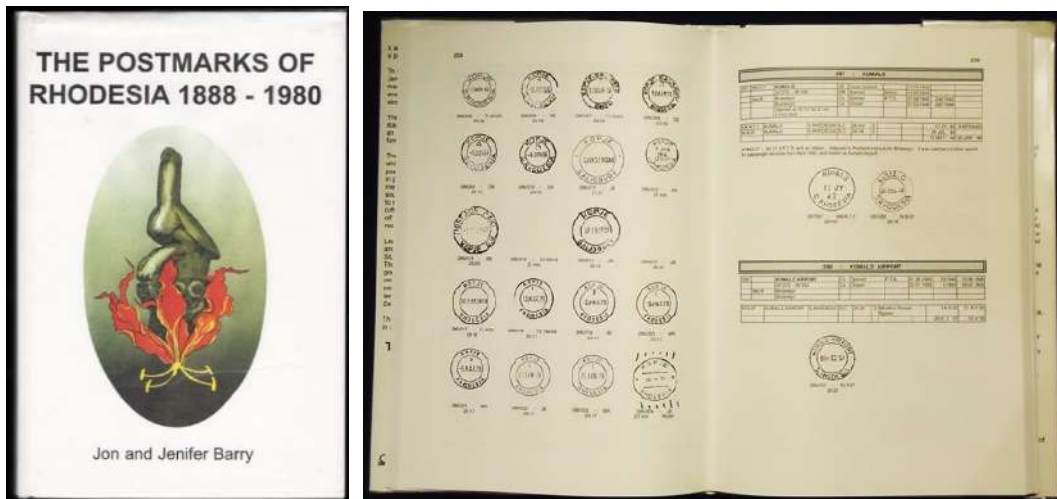
**Fair Coordinator: Paul Brownlie**

# Bendigo Philatelic Society Library

A review by: David Robinson. Library code: BPS0110

## THE POSTMARKS OF RHODESIA 1888-1980

Published by the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa with the support of the Philatelic Foundation.



One gets the feeling that this publication has been composed by a passionate team of philatelists. Jon and Jennifer Barry have put together a comprehensive work on the postmarks of Rhodesia. Jon and Jennifer travelled extensively throughout Africa to visit philatelic fairs, exhibitions, and stamp auctions. They were searching for stamps of the British South Africa Company and enjoyed looking at the old postmarks. A new interest soon developed, in their identification and the collecting of the many old postmarks and postal history of Rhodesia.

Thousands of hours of diligent study have grown into this most comprehensive compendium of information on postal offices and postmarks of the Rhodesian Lands. This hard cover book of 447 pages is easy to follow and full of the relevant information that any Rhodesian Philatelist can wish for. The postmarks are collected in years and the book displays each postmark on the relevant page. There is also some information on postal forgeries found so far, Further research on this subject is necessary as forgeries are becoming a vexing problem for postmark collectors.

Present day Zimbabwe, is officially Republic of Zimbabwe, was formerly (1911-64) Southern Rhodesia, (1964-79) Rhodesia, or (1979-80) Zimbabwe Rhodesia, a landlocked country of southern Africa.

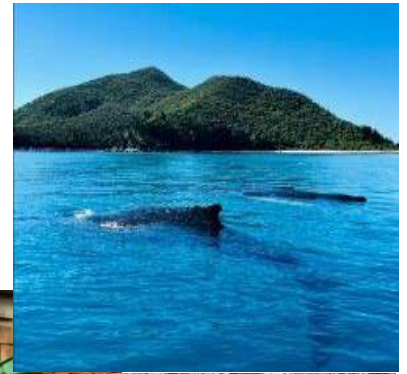
[Our library holds an extensive range of books, leaflets & magazines, which are available to members.](#)

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



## Editor's Note: The Death of a Stamp Club

As I may have mentioned last month, this issue is also coming to you from Mackay where the skies are clear and the temperature has peaked around 26 most days. I'm here for a long overdue visit to my eldest son, who has kept me pretty busy doing repairs and maintenance on his house, interspersed with many visits to sandy beaches, rainforest waterfalls whale watching and orchid houses, some of which are shown here, just to make you jealous.



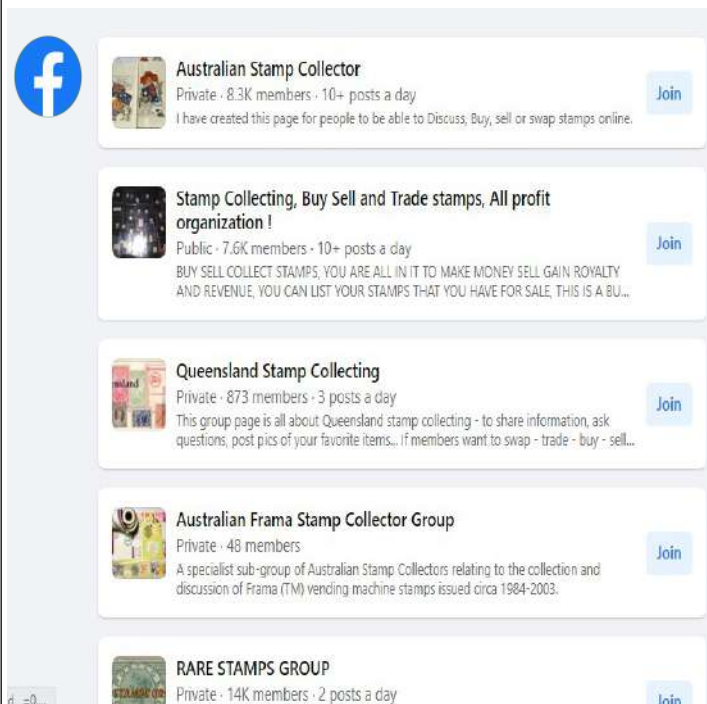
All that has nothing to do with stamps, of course but other things I have been looking forward to from this trip are more philatelic in nature. Mackay has one of the last stamp and coin shops which I talked about in the last newsletter. It has been great for my collection but less so for my budget. I had also been looking forward to visiting the local stamp club and had several contact phone numbers to ring. None of the numbers were still working and Kathy at the stamp shop told me that she understood that the last three remaining members had died in their eighties and the club had folded.

This got me thinking about the future of clubs like ours and the future of philately in general. If ours is the last generation to be interested in these tiny pieces of paper, what will a lifetime collection be worth in the future when the time comes to sell? Will anyone be interested? It turns out that this question has been on the minds of many others and surveys have been done that show philately is still popular with many young people. One survey in Italy showed that the average age of philatelists was just 30. So where are they?





Like many other aspects of life these days, young philatelists can be mostly found online where I found several description of clubs such as ours as “grandfather clubs”. Perhaps that’s a reasonably accurate description, though I’ve only recently become a grandfather and many of our members are far from that state. What the name shows is an impression with some of the reasons given for not joining being that the meetings are too slow and formal, making them boring. I think addressing how to attract younger members to ensure continuity is a conversation many clubs need to have.



Meanwhile online, in places like Facebook and Youtube, philatelic interest is high. I read several comments on the way stamp administrations are trying to “rip off” collectors by their ever-increasing numbers of issues and variants. This has not stopped them from collecting stamps that they find appealing, it has simply made them more choosy about where to spend their money. Younger collectors, such as Gerard McCulloch, who is a TV writer for the Weekly and Hard Quiz, is also a stamp collector who goes by the name of the Punk Philatelist. His Youtube videos get thousands of views and his website is an entertaining, often irreverent view of what is going on in the world of philately. His choice of the thirteen most interesting Australian stamps of all time is a good basis for a discussion on philatelic design and was reprinted by The Guardian newspaper. Along with many other articles, it can be read at <https://punkphilatelist.com/>

Back in May and June this year, Stampex ran a Virtual Stampex online exhibition. Exhibiting or appearing online can be achieved without the costs involved in travel or the dangers of damage or loss to a valuable collection. I suspect we will see much more of this in the future. Young people also don’t seem to want to outlay the enormous cost of paper catalogues. Although most of us older collectors might still cling to our Stanley Gibbons, the younger set are more likely to trust Stampworld or Colnect, both of which have the advantage of being free and constantly updated. Prices shown are based on what collectors are willing to sell for to other collectors rather than being inflated to help pay for a building in the Strand.



So where does all this leave us? As a club, do we want to find ways to attract more younger members or will we, like the club in Mackay, simply eventually fade away. If our answer is the former, where do we start and can we do it in ways that don’t make our older members uncomfortable and also stay within the rules for an incorporated body? The philatelic knowledge and expertise held within our club is extensive and if it can’t be passed on to a new generation, it will be lost.

A recent email from the Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society may have said it best.

“Now our work needs to be relevant to the modern collector. The pandemic showed that philately can use technology effectively to reach collectors anywhere in the world. Technology cannot replace the social aspects of the hobby, but it can create a 24/7 connection that meets the needs of modern collectors. We should bring the hobby together for education and socialization, regardless of where the collector is.”

## Stamps that turn their backs on you: Perfins

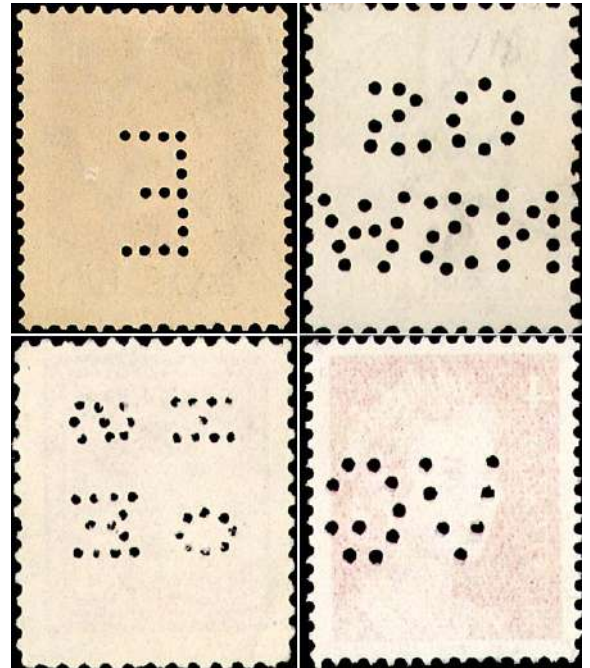
I can remember, back in the 1980s when a dealer friend of mine said that of all the stamps with letters perforated on them only the official government stamps had value. I built up quite a selection as he would often give them to me when they turned up in his purchases. I thought they were fascinating but back then I had little idea of what the letters meant.

These “mutilated” stamps have since become popular although I no longer collect them. Some years back, while having a serious downsizing of my collection, I bundled them all up and sent them to an online friend in New York who was a bit of a fanatic about them.

Perfins were originally produced to reduce theft, particularly from government departments like the two on the right here which will be familiar to most of us. I have no idea whether government clerks using department postage stamps for their own private mail was a major problem but by perforating the stamps, they made sure it didn't become one. Often the stamps selected for perforation were ones where the quality was not good enough for general sale so often they will be poorly centred.

The idea was enthusiastically taken up by businesses with letters representing the name of the company involved and a collector can have a lot of fun trying to identify these. Luckily, in these days of instant worldwide communication on the internet, there are resources available for most countries which can be found with a simple search.

I recently received an email directing me to Dave Elsmore's site where the questions of collectors of Australian perfins can be answered. Dave Elsmore is possibly best known for his work on revenues and cinderellas but he has now released a free downloadable guide to Australian official perfins. These cover government perfins for states, including various departments, and major cities. Despite perfins no longer being part of my collection, I found Dave Elsmore's site to be fascinating and informative reading.



Screenshot of the Perfin Stamps of Australia website. The page features a navigation menu with links to 'How the Perfin was born', 'World Perfin Challenge', 'Telegraph &amp; Telephone Perfins', 'Perfin Research', 'Perfin Exhibits', and 'Perfin Links'. Below the menu, there are several featured items: a book titled 'OFFICIAL AUSSIE PERFINS - A BASIC GUIDE' by Dave Elsmore, a large Victorian 5p stamp with a perforated 'T' and 'D', and a block of four 3d Kangaroo stamps with perforated 'RR/BCO' pairs. Text on the page includes 'Devoted to the study of Perfins found on Australian Postage, Revenue &amp; Railway stamps, free for all', 'Dave Elsmore Queensland Australia', and '© copyright 2013 Disclaimer &amp; Warnings:'. A footer contains the URL 'https://www.perfins.com.au/'.



## Why is this person on a stamp No 21: Susanna Orelli

As a person who enjoys the occasional whisky or three, it surprises me that I admire the work of Susanna Orelli. She was a tireless worker for temperance and a founder of the Women's Union For Temperance and Social Advancement.

Susanna lived at a time when the massive over-consumption of alcohol was one of society's most destructive influences. For many of the poor, life was so hard that the oblivion offered by the raw alcohol, that was cheaply available, offered a respite from the awful conditions they endured.

Though it was not only men who drank excessively, it was seen in many places as being a sign of masculinity and so was almost expected. The dark side of his was violence, sometimes murder and often physical abuse of other family members, particularly women. Susanna's organisation struck a chord with many women.

Even as a child, her life had been affected by alcohol. One night, her parents had roused her from her bed and they had fled the house when the barn nearby had been set on fire by a drunken man who had recently been released from an asylum. A neighbour's son had shot himself when depressed while drunk. Worst of all, her beloved stepbrother, whose job included deliveries to a brewery died. At the brewery, he would be given a large drink of ale before returning home. One day, this caused him to fall from the dray on the way home and he was killed.

The problem in Zurich became worse after 1874 when old laws that restricted various trades were removed. Breweries and taverns sprang up everywhere so that within eight years there was a tavern in Zurich for every 130 men, women and children in the city yet a referendum to impose closing time on taverns was defeated and

drunkenness was everywhere in the streets. One problem was that many people believed that alcohol consumption prevented the plagues and diseases that abounded at the time.

Susanna worked for several organisations but found them either ineffectual or opposing alcohol completely. She felt strongly that banning alcohol was not the answer but providing alternatives was a better solution to the problem. With fifteen other well-heeled women she started her own society which opened restaurants, offering good food at cheap prices along with mineral water or fruit juice to drink in summer and coffee or hot chocolate in winter.

The idea had worked in other Swiss cities and now it began to be effective in Zurich, so much so that some of the restaurants they opened still thrive. Susanna Orelli died in Zurich in 1939.

Source: A much more detailed account of her life and work can be found at [www.encyclopedia.com](http://www.encyclopedia.com) who also quote several German language sources.





# THE BALLARAT PHILATELIC SOCIETY INTERCLUB AND AUCTION DAY. MONDAY OCT 16<sup>TH</sup> 1.00 PM

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO THE BALLARAT INTERCLUB,  
SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER GARY WATSON AND AUCTION  
AFTERNOON.

**VENUE:** EASTWOOD LEISURE COMPLEX  
(OUR STAMP FAIR VENUE)  
20 EASTWOOD ST, BALLARAT.

**TIME:** 1 P.M. – 3.30 P.M.

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER** WILL BE GARY WATSON.  
GARY IS AN AUCTIONEER AND SENIOR SPECIALIST – STAMPS,  
POSTAL HISTORY AND PICTURE POSTCARDS.

**AUCTION:** ANYONE CAN SUBMIT UP TO 20 ITEMS FOR THE  
AUCTION.

PLEASE REGISTER ON ARRIVAL.

**AFTERNOON TEA:** WILL BE PROVIDED.

**RSVP:** JAN KERR SECRETARY: 0450172165 OR

[jan.kerr1926@gmail.com](mailto:jan.kerr1926@gmail.com)

**Website:** [info@ballaratstampclub.com.au](http://info@ballaratstampclub.com.au)





## **MARYBOROUGH STAMP & COIN FAIR 2023.**

**To be held on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023.**

**From 9.15 am to 2.15 pm.**

**at St Augustine's Hall, Burns Street, Maryborough.**

**Plenty of Free Parking. Free admission.**

**Some refreshments provided.**

**Melbourne & local dealers.**

**Free Valuations provided.**

