



Ballarat Stamp Club is finally able to meet again!!

Welcome back our first meeting of 2021 and the first since March 2020 is on Monday February 22nd at the Eastwood Leisure Centre from 7PM till we finish.

We are grateful to our friends at the Eastwood Leisure Centre for keeping us informed on when we could come back and under what circumstances. Secretary Jan will provide a sign in sheet that we all must sign and record our phone details. Please exercise COVID-19 common sense and bring and wear masks.



Let us hope we can continue meeting and getting together and enjoy some sort of COVID-19 normality!

This meeting on Monday February 22nd will incorporate several of items including an informal chat, then the meeting and an interesting talk by Keith Sanders on the Bass Strait Islands Posts, an auction where you can bring up to 5 items, and Circuit Sheets organised by Neil Petrass will be available.

I am pleased to report that we have sold out of the mini sheets and have only about 14 covers left. Many of our regular customers ordered additional items to include our hand stamp COVID-19 cancellers. The income from the Ballarat Limited Editions has helped us to keep afloat!

Let's hope we don't need to use the cancellers again EVER! Our regular customer in Medicine Hat, Canada said the other day that it was 35 degrees below where he lives. Another customer Mike Chappell in the UK said that they are in a mess with COVID-19 and commends the way we have handled the issues in Victoria.

I have heard we may be joined by some new members which will be great. Please make them welcome.

Requests for "Free Stamps for Kids" continue – now 170 requests. We have also had some cash donations which we need to discuss practical ways of hopefully getting young and older kids into stamps. We have some nice clean albums with good stamps donated and they will be given away as well. Ideas such as providing kids with Starter Packs, magnifiers and tweezers are just some of the ideas proposed. Give this some thought please.

We will have two Monday Meetings in March on the 15th and 29th. Please enter the competition for one sheet with the Letter Q. The cancellation of meetings has caused some confusion with competitions so just bear with us please. Neil has arranged circuit sheets for both these meetings too. Two sheets with the Letter R can be submitted for the 29th of March meeting.

Peter Morey President Ballarat PS

Upcoming Events

Meetings **February 22 Meeting and Talk on Bass Strait Island Post by Keith Sanders**

March 15 Eureka Displays – Two Sheets Letter "R"

Club Member's Special Interest Display: *Neil Petrass*

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Zululand, British Colony (1887 – 1897)

FAST FACTS

Region: Southern Africa

Group: South Africa Area

Classification: Colony (Britain)

Prior Regime: Zulu Kingdom

Key Dates:

- 1878, Dec 11 – Britain delivers an ultimatum to Zulu Kingdom to submit to British rule
- 1879, Jan – Britain attacks the Zulu Kingdom after their refusal to submit to British rule
- 1887, May 19 – Britain defeats the Zulu Kingdom and creates Zululand colony
- 1897, Dec 31 – Zululand annexed into Natal Colony

Following Regime: Natal, British Colony

Scott Catalogue: (Zululand) #1-24

Pick Catalogue: none

HISTORY

Zululand is an area in Southern Africa which has a rich and vibrant history. The Zulus became historically important in the early 19th century under the leadership of Shaka, who conquered and united many of the people to create a large nation in southern Africa. His successors soon encountered the Boer settlers migrating north into Natal as part of the Great Trek. The Zulu chief Dingane ambushed and killed about 500 Boers in 1838. In revenge the forces of Andries Pretorius killed about 3,000 Zulus in the Battle of Blood River. Subsequent Boer intervention in Zulu domestic affairs led to the overthrow of Dingane in 1840 and the crowning of Mpande, who became a vassal of the Boer republic of Natal.

When the British succeeded the Boers as rulers of Natal in 1843, they encountered a hostile Zulu people led by Mpande's son, Cetshwayo. In 1878, the British laid claim on the whole of Zululand and demanded that the Zulu King, Cetshwayo submit to British rule. Cetshwayo refused and Great Britain launched an attack, starting the Anglo-Zulu War where the British initially suffered a high number of casualties. The battle at the Isandlwana



ZULU WARRIORS, including KING CETSHWAYO'S brother DABULAMANZI – 1879



Mountain on 22 January, 1879 was particularly disastrous for the British where 20,000 Zulu soldiers overran the British army camp. The British army was routed with more than 2000 casualties. At first, the Zulu victory shocked the British; however England decided to send more troops and the Anglo-Zulu War continued with heavy losses of life on both sides. In 1887, the British defeated the Zulus, and annexed Zululand and declared it a British Colony. With the discovery of gold in the region, and the further encroachment of the Boers, Zululand was annexed into Natal on 31 December 1897.

STAMPS

A post office was established in Eshowe in 1887 at the time of the annexation; however an official postal system did not start until 1 May 1888 when both Zululand and Natal colonies became members of the Universal Postal Union. At first, the territory used postage stamps of Great Britain (and a 1/2p stamp from Natal) overprinted "ZULULAND". On 27 June 1891, a 1p revenue stamp from Natal was overprinted "ZULULAND", and was by special proclamation by the Governor of Zululand was declared a postage stamp.



In 1894, a series of eight definitive issues using a key plate style of the profile of Queen Victoria was inscribed "ZULULAND" was made available. These stamps ranged in denomination from 1/2 penny to five pounds. According to Scott, Purple or violet cancellations were not necessarily revenue cancels as fourteen of the seventeen post offices and agencies in Zululand used violet cancellations as well as black.

On 31 December 1897 the kingdom was annexed to Natal, and Zululand stamps were withdrawn on 30 June 1898.

Contributed by Cliff Matthews

DEATH AND YOUR COLLECTION

[The following article is essentially the transcript of a talk given by Gary Watson as an invited speaker at the South Australian Philatelic Congress in September 2002. updated in February 2021] [Used with permission.]



Talking about one's own passing is rarely pleasant or comfortable. We often pretend that we'll live to be a hundred. And one of the things we often put off is making a will.

The fact is that you or I could be DEAD TOMORROW. And that is the point. We all KNOW that we could die tomorrow so it is important to be practical about such issues. Clearly defining your current intentions in the form of a will not only will help your beneficiaries in the future, it will give you peace of mind now.

Hopefully, you will all be active collectors for many years to come. But one day, sooner or later, will be your last. When that fateful day arrives, will your executors know what is to happen with your collection? Will they know what is to be sold, how, and by whom?

If you have not addressed these issues, I would urge you to do so now. If you covered these matters in a will some years ago, I would urge you to review and possibly amend those instructions now. (And don't forget that if you marry after making a will, the document is rendered null and void.)

The philatelic market is buoyant with values in many areas rising steadily. As a result, your collection may well be your most valuable asset.

Don't make the mistake of not leaving proper instructions in your will regarding the gifting of your collection, or its disposal. It is not enough that you have a will: you must give specific instructions to your executors to guard against them innocently, or negligently, costing your family or other beneficiaries a fortune.

A common mistake is to leave no indication as to the value of a collection. One often hears stories of albums being thrown out or given away because "nobody thought they were worth anything".

General instructions to executors that they "endeavour to maximise the return on the sale" of a collection have caused untold losses to beneficiaries. Often collections have been sold through inappropriate channels (such as general household auctioneers) or sold for a pittance to a so-called "friend", or a retail dealer who then on-sells for a large profit.

In every such case your family members, your friends, or your favourite charities are denied a large part of their inheritance. And IT'S YOUR FAULT!

Yet it is so simple to ensure that such losses are not suffered by your loved ones.

In your will, you need to make a clear statement of your intentions, along the following lines: "I instruct my executor to engage the services of XYZ Pty Ltd to offer the whole of my philatelic collections for sale at public auction."

If you merely say "sell my stamps", your executors may do that in any way they choose, usually taking the path of least resistance, or the quickest way out.

If you say "sell my stamps at auction" they may go to any type of auction firm regardless of their track record, bona fides or general suitability for the job.

To ensure the best outcome for your beneficiaries it is important that you insist on sale at public auction. This will increase the exposure of your material. But it is just as important to specify the auction house you believe will provide the finest service and achieve the best results.

You should leave your executors the details of the person they should contact at your preferred firm. The more specific and forthright your instructions, the more your executors will feel constrained to closely observe your wishes.

An added protection is to write to your nominated auction house stating your intentions. Provide the contact details of your solicitor and your executors so that the firm is in a position to advise them of any matter such as relocation or change of phone number etc.

DEATH AND YOUR COLLECTION (Continued)

How many times have you heard of the family of a deceased person being harassed by dealers or other collectors? It is a sad reflection of this industry and hobby that it happens all the time.

By providing clear instructions in your will, all interested parties - including the ambulance chasers - can be advised of what WILL happen, and not what might happen. Your consideration and foresight will provide protection for your beneficiaries, and reduce their anxiety in a time of stress.

I am not here to promote Abacus Auctions other than to say this: we recognise that while the person who formed the collection may be deceased, his wife family and other beneficiaries are not only alive, but are entitled to the same level of care and service as we would have provided to the deceased.

We are also mindful that the beneficiaries may be reliant on the sale of your collection for a substantial part of their inheritance.

Other firms may not even understand the legal concept of a fiduciary duty of care. We not only understand it, we take it very seriously.

[Gary Watson has been a professional philatelist since 1979. He was the director of Prestige Philately Pty Ltd of Melbourne, now merged with Abacus Auctions where he is Senior Describer and Principal Auctioneer. He is a former vice-president of the Australasian Philatelic Traders Association and, having qualified in law, was chairman of that body's Disputes Committee. Abacus is also a member of the Philatelic Traders' Society (UK), the American Stamp Dealers Association, the American Philatelic Society, and the New Zealand Stamp Dealers Association. Gary is a member of numerous philatelic societies and is a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, the Australian Commonwealth Collectors Club of New South and the British Society of Australian Philately. He has also exhibited to Large Medal level and is an accredited National Judge.]

[A further note from Abacus Auctions: Readers interested in contacting Abacus Auctions can email info@abacusauctions.com.au or phone (+61 3) 8513 0595 to speak with an expert in Stamps, Postal History, Picture Postcards, Banknotes, Coins, Militaria, Australiana, Toys or Sporting Memorabilia.]

Article contributed by Phil Day

INSURING STAMPS AND OTHER COLLECTIBLES

Are we covered for the lose of our valuable collections if our home were to suffer a flood, fire or burglary? Many collectors mistakenly believe that their home insurance policy provides full coverage for their collection. The truth is, most standard home insurance policies only offer limited coverage for a collection, unless covered under the heading of specialised contents.

In Australia, regardless of the type of cover - if your stamps are stolen, burnt, water damaged etc, you generally have ****ZERO**** chance of getting a cent, unless you can furnish the insurer with a detailed, dated, and signed assessment done by a qualified, independent stamp valuer, whom they (the insurance company) recognise as such. Even with an appraisal you should also perform an inventory of your collection so that you can provide additional proof of ownership in the event of a loss. Include photographs and copies of receipts to keep with your inventory.

A common mistake when insuring a collection is not to specify the replacement costs of your albums, pages, reference material and catalogues etc. it is surprising how much these items add up to.

From My Collection

Province of Bumbunga

The Province of Bumbunga comprises a three-hectare strawberry farm located at Bumbunga, some eight kilometres from Lochiel and 137 kilometres north east of Adelaide in South Australia.



The Province was proclaimed on January 1, 1979 by the owner of the property Mr. Alex Brackstone, a



former circus monkey trainer who migrated from England after World War II and who settled at Bumbunga after unsuccessfully mineral prospecting in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Mr. Brackstone's motives for taking this step were quite unlike those of Mr. Leonard Casley and Mr. Thomas Barnes who proclaimed their states (of Hutt River Province and the Independent State of Rainbow Creek) as a result of fierce disputes with their respective governments.

The Bumbunga Province came into being for purely patriotic reasons as Mr. Brackstone was alarmed at the erosion of Royalist sentiment in Australia and what he detected as the drift to Republicanism — particularly after the then Governor General Sir John Kerr dismissed the Whitlam Labour Government in 1975. In setting up the Province of Bumbunga and proclaiming himself the Governor, Mr. Brackstone hoped to reverse this trend.

One of his chief weapons in this campaign against creeping Republicanism is his pride and joy, a 92,000 square foot strawberry patch which is shaped as a map of the United Kingdom. It stretches 600 feet from the Isle of Wight to John O'Groats in Scotland and 350 feet from Land's End to Kent.

Governor Brackstone offered to perform marriage ceremonies in the Province for brides of noble British birth and he planned to import earth from the place of the lady's birth in England and sprinkle it on the appropriate place amongst the 50,000 strawberry plants in his map. However, he encountered certain problems with this plan as quarantine authorities confiscated Shipments of earth from the U.K.

The Province of Bumbunga released nine stamp issues totalling 25 stamps, all displaying great very loyalty to the British Royal family as the accompanying images show.



Next newsletter we will look at Hutt River Province

Celebrating EUROPA Stamps

The **Europa postage stamp** (also known as Europa - CEPT until 1992) is an annual joint issue of stamps with a common design or theme by postal administrations of member countries of the European Communities (1956-1959), the [European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations](#) (CEPT) from 1960 to 1992, and the [PostEurop](#) Association since 1993. Europe is the central theme.



EUROPA stamps underlines cooperation in the posts domain, taking into account promotion of [philately](#). They also build awareness of the common roots, culture and history of Europe and its common goals. As such, EUROPA stamp issues are among the most collected and most popular stamps in the world.

Since the first issue in 1956, EUROPA stamps have been a tangible symbol of Europe's desire for closer integration and cooperation. 65 years ago, the postal administrations of founding six member countries of European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) issued the first EUROPA stamps. Three years later in 1959, 19 European nations decided to enter into a telecommunications and postal administration cooperation. The cooperation was called CEPT - The European Conference of Telecommunications and Postal Administrations.



Over just a few years, the organization grew to include 26 member countries, and consisted primarily of nationalized telecommunications companies and postal services. CEPT functioned as a sort of union for these companies, ensuring cooperation on commercial, operational, regulatory, and technical standardization issues.

Source bounce@stampworld.com—Newsletter February 2021

GERMAN Stamps are now going Digital

By 2022 all new German stamp issues will exhibit an individual matrix code DataMatrix digital code complying with the ISO/IEC 16022 standard, in a dimension of 6.8 mm × 20.3 mm, which allows more than four billion numbers within each run. With all of them holding an imbedded unique individual identifier for each stamp.



The Matrix codes are added to each stamp at the printing stage. The code will allow basic track and trace, and details of the issue can also be called up via a mobile phone app etc. They say the code is also used internally within the PO to automatically determine whether the franking is legal and correct, or has been used before, or is **FORGED** etc.

German Post advises that the embedded code on each stamp will contain the following data:

1. The letters DEA, with DE for Germany and A for Deutsche Post.
2. The Customer Number.
3. If purchased from a Stamp machine, the exact machine identifier number.
4. Type of stamp, i.e. internet stamp, machine stamp, PO bought commemorative stamp etc.
5. Date first scanned in at a PO, or printed out from machine etc.
6. PO Product number of the stamp.
7. The Consignment number.
8. Anti-fraud and anti-forgery elements, such as a crypto string.
9. The Issue date, and the face value.

There is a possibility that these new codes will auto-expire after a given period making them legally invalid for usage. This could lead to consumers or collectors having many Euros worth of mint stamps not able to be used on mail.

In Australia, any mint Decimal Currency stamp issued since 1966 is valid for posting today. A 1966 \$2 stamp is still good for \$2 postage today etc. In the USA and Canada, France and other places, most stamps issued **160 years back** etc, are still valid. Germany not so it seems?

Source: read full article at <https://www.glenstepens.com/snmatch21.html>

February Quiz

Questions sourced from STAMPBOARDS.com

1. In 2014, there were calls in Russia to ban mail from Finland which was franked with a particular stamp issue.
- The Russian objections were due to :
 - The stamps were deemed homoerotic by the Russians
 - The stamps featured maps which Russia claimed to show incorrect border
 - The stamps featured a Finnish athlete who Russia claimed is Russian

2. **India has had a post office operating in Antarctica**
False True

3. Which was the first country to issue an ANZAC stamp?
Australia New Zealand

4. **The first stamps issued for the Falkland Islands Dependencies depicted which English monarch?**
a. KGV b. KGVI c. QEII

5. These stamps all feature the allegorical symbol of republican France.



This allegorical woman is known as:

- a) Marianne b) Victoire c) Capucine d) Jeanne
6. **The first Forever stamp issued in the USA featured:**
a) The Statue of Liberty b) The US flag
c) The Liberty Bell d) Elvis Presley
7. Helecon is:
a) A type of machine postmark b) A Greek island
c) A chemical additive used in ink and paper
d) An embossed stamp paper

8. **Who or what was commemorated by the issue of an Australian commemorative postage stamp in the 1960s, despite written opposition from the Postmaster General to the PM who stated its release "would be outside stamp policy, since only "occasions of outstanding national importance" qualified for a new stamp.**

- 1960 5d "Centenary of the Melbourne Cup" Horse Race stamp
- 1969 5d International Telecommunications Union stamp
- 1961 1/- Columbo Plan stamp 1962 5d World Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World in Melbourne stamp

9. According to Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth catalogue, which country issued a postage stamp in 1948 to commemorate that country's 50th Golden Jubilee of the 'Camel Postman' postage stamp design?

10. **Gibraltar in her stamp issuing past, has issued postage stamps inscribed in both Spanish and English currencies:**

TRUE FALSE?

11. **In what year did Queensland first issue a stamp NOT depicting Queen Victoria anywhere in the design?**

- 1871
- 1886
- 1890
- 1897
- 1903
- 1910
- All Queensland stamps have depicted Queen Victoria.

12. **What does the philatelic abbreviation SON (or SOTN) refer to? (Particularly in the USA)**

13. **Most collectors have heard of, or seen, or even own the colourful TONGA 'Tin Can Mail' covers so popular in the pre WW2 period. What was the name of the eccentric American-born man who created and sold most of them? (HINT - his name was even printed somewhere on most of them)**

14. **Often overlooked, and often cleverly hidden, "secret marks" can be found in many stamp designs from a variety of countries**

A famous example of a hidden design NOT approved or authorised by the USPS was on the 1986 \$1 USA issue featuring Rabbi Bernard Revel. What was this hidden letter or design, or symbol, or thing, or word??

15. **Who or what is/was PAMABA?**

- A South American dictator stamp collector
- An Indian Feudatory state
- A department store chain in Kenya
- An advertising sealing stamp for a family soap product packaging
- A tropical fruit depicted on the 2007 Malaysian 'Fruits' stamp issue
- A stamp issued to celebrate the new capital city of Myanmar
- The Southernmost tip of Argentina.

16. **In what year did the Australian standard size, domestic letter rate nearly double?**

- 1925
- 1935
- 1945
- 1955
- 1965
- 1975
- 1985
- 1995

Quiz Continued

17. The following ditty was written about which well known antipodean stamp issue?

*"Twas a maiden of Hobart so nice
Had a mouth that for two would suffice,
It had stretched, pretty dear,
From her ear to her ear.
'Til the boys had to kiss her in twice
'Tis the same with these stamps a la Bird,
Whose dimensions are really absurd,
You can't make 'em stick,
With one good honest lick --
They need two, and then sometimes a third."*

- a) Sydney views
- b) Tasmanian Pictorial series
- c) South Australian Long Toms
- d) Queensland chalons

18. To what does the term Abonnement-Poste refer?

- a) Mail lodged in the dead letter office.
- b) Mail item delivered to incorrect address.
- c) Newspaper subscriptions, which do not require postage stamps.
- d) French advertising mail

19. Who was the first person to be depicted on Burmese stamps following independence from British rule in 1948?

20. Alphabetically, in the Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Catalogue, 1840-2007, which stamp issuing countries are the first and last to appear. (The correct answer will have listed BOTH countries correctly.)

Answers will be emailed in 7 days

A PO FDC, Limited to 150!

The cancel on this Train Sheet is certainly the First Day Issue is the only way it ever occurred was in this set. These sets of 28 sold out very quickly at Australia Post at a high asking price, and most collectors globally had no idea they existed.

Serious stamp collectors want obtain them - as buying this cover is the *ONLY* way to source this unique and unheralded Miniature Sheet. The sets are still only a few dollars apiece, and would be a brilliant ebay seller if split into 28 individually numbered lots and sold singly as they are loaded with topicals/ themes

A very pretty set I am sure you'll agree, but the gold foil metallic cancels on them do not flat-bed scan well - I tried to take one with my camera to try and capture the metallic shimmer of it all but this did not quite work out either!

It is hard to believe it is FIFTY years since the Post Office started making official decimal era stamp FDC's. I remember as a kid in high school going to buy the 1970 Captain Cook, and I also had the savvy to cut up a mini sheet, and affixed the 6 *imperf* singles to one. That one is long gone - should have kept it - have never ever, seen another!



Useful Websites

Further to the article about the Province of Bumbunga the following web sites provide some interesting information and links to other micro-nations in the world, with citizens choosing to establish their own rule and shrug off the shackles of the country's constitutional democracy. Australia, notably has one of the highest number of micro-nations in the world

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_micronations

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-10/meet-the-micro-nations-of-australia/8252020>

Ballarat Stamp Club

2021 Syllabus

February 15	Club Member's Special Interest Display: <i>Bass Strait Islands Mail: Keith Sanders</i>	July 19	Annual General meeting <i>President's Display</i>
March 15	Eureka Displays – Two Sheets Letter "Q" Club Member's Special Interest Display: <i>Neil Petrass</i>	August 16	Inter-club social night and auction (Club Newsletter items due)
March 29	Circuit Sheets and Committee Meeting	August 30	Circuit Sheets and Committee meeting
April 19 "S"	Eureka Displays – Three sheets Letter (Club Newsletter items due)	September 20	Annual Membership Due Club Member's Special Interest Display: <i>Dutch East Indies: Peter Morey</i>
May 17	Eureka Displays – Four sheets Letter "T" Club Member's Special Interest Display: <i>Antarctica: John Niehoff</i>	October 10 (Sunday)	Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair Eastwood Leisure Centre
May 31	Circuit Sheets and Committee Meeting	October 18	Other Collections / Hobbies Night
June 21	Nominations due for Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2021/22 (Club Newsletter items due)	November 15	Mystery Guest Night
		November 29	Circuit Sheets and Committee Meeting
		December	End of year Function Date and Venue T.B.A.