



# NEWSLETTER

OF THE

**BALLARAT PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC.**

Established 1904

Meetings are held on the 3rd and 5th Mondays of each month (except December) at The Eastwood Street Leisure Centre, 20 Eastwood Street Ballarat, commencing at 7pm.

Membership \$5 (for 2020/21)

Visitors Welcome

## Welcome to our March 2022 edition of Ballarat Philatelic Society Newsletter

Our February 2022 Meeting was held at Ballarat's beautifully restored Art Deco style Canberra Hotel. We had a huge roll up of members for a very enjoyable evening. Thanks so much to member Dr Michael Stubbs and Malcolm for providing the delicious food and our club provided the drinks for all. Michael showed us all around the hotel and we marvelled at what they have achieved. We also held the club meeting in the 'Stables' Café'. Once again thanks so much to Michael and Malcolm for their wonderful hospitality!



Jack and Pat along with others have now finalised and submitted the club's story to the APF magazine for publication very soon. I believe our club is held in very high esteem for its efforts to promote philately.

The majority of members voted to cancel the March 14<sup>th</sup> Fair due to our inability to be able to provide sufficient staffing to address Covid 19 rules.

We are very keen to conduct the next Fair on Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the Eastwood Leisure Centre which has been booked. It was resolved to work hard to make this a success.

A sub committee was appointed to review our website and subsequent to them meeting a completely new website will soon in place. Pat Tacey was appointed Web Master.

The Mini Sheets almost sold out and the Covers went very well again. Treasurer, Brian, mentioned that this has been our only real source of income for the past two years.

Frank Myers has reported that our trailer needs some maintenance and Dianne Whitford suggested that we need to replace all the tyres.

About 9 members attended the Maryborough Club Auction night and had a great time. We were unable to attend Warrnambool Auction the following week due to Covid 19 affects on some members.

Trish reported that things had started to move on the 'Free Stamps for Kids' with large donations from Jan, Peter and Brighton PS. More soon. She suggested that a budget was needed to be discussed.

An old Club Minute Book has turned up. It was for the period June 1974 till the AGM of July 1980. It is now with our records in the steel cabinet. Current member Norm Hamilton was mentioned in it.

The next Meeting is on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April at the Eastwood Leisure Centre at 7pm.

Peter Morey President Ballarat Philatelic Society

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# Ballarat

## Eureka Stamp and Coin Fair

Will return bigger and better

on

Sunday October 9th

At The Eastwood Leisure Centre

20 Eastwood St, Ballarat Central VIC 3350

More Details to Follow



"You guys mind if I bet rare stamps? I'm all out of money."

A privately organised Coins and Stamp Fair is being arranged for 11th June

To be held at the Central Wendouree Bowling Club.

All details are still to be confirmed

*This event is not in place of the Ballarat Philatelic Society's normal March and October Fairs*

# BALLARAT PHILATELIC SOCIETY inc.

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Established 1904

## SYLLABUS 2022

Meetings:

7.00 pm (Social gathering)    7.30 pm (Formal meeting)

3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month (except December)

**Eastwood Leisure Centre**

**20 Eastwood Street, Ballarat**

Membership \$5.00    Visitors welcome

April 18	<i>Eureka Displays</i> – Three sheets Letter “W” (Club Newsletter items due)	August 29	Circuit Sheets and Committee meeting
May 16	<i>Eureka Displays</i> – Four sheets Letters “X, Y or Z” Club Member’s Special Interest Display: Keith Sanders: <i>“British Colonial Royal Charter Companies”</i> A presentation not be missed	September 19	Annual Membership Due Club Member’s Special Interest Display: Neil Petrass: <i>Topic to be advised</i>
May 30	Circuit Sheets and Committee Meeting	October 9	(Sunday) <b>Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair</b> Eastwood Leisure Centre
June 20	Nominations due for Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2021/22 (Club Newsletter items due)	October 17	Other Collections or Hobbies Night
July 18	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> <i>President’s Display</i>	October 31	Circuit Sheets and Committee Meeting
August 15	Inter-club social night and auction (Club Newsletter items due)	November 21	Mystery Guest Speaker
		December	End of year Function

### Ballarat Philatelic Society Webpage

We are currently in the process of updating our web presence.

If any one has suggestions as to what they would like to see included on our page please email  
tacey55@gmail.com

### June Newsletter contributions needed by June 20th

Our newsletter goes out to many readers both here and overseas.

Contributions from any of our readers are most welcome no matter how detailed. Generally an item from half a page to double A4 is accepted, however snippets of information are also welcome. Please submit trivia questions for the next newsletter.

## 1902 Western Australia £1 Orange Queen Victoria



[Western Australia 1902 £1 \\*Orange\\* Queen Victoria VFU, : SG 128.](#)

These were issued initially in the FEDERAL period, and are fully Commonwealth of Australia era stamps, not a "WA" stamp as such. The ACSC has for some years, fully catalogued and priced all such issues, and their prices will harden, as they truly are "*Australian Commonwealth*" stamps, not simply "State" stamps, as they were once wrongly regarded as. As is generally known, Australia became a "Commonwealth" on January 1, 1901 - the month that Queen Victoria died. For postal arrangements, the amalgamation of the six different state Post and Telegraph services was required. This occurred on March 1, 1901. That date can be regarded as the date after which any stamps issued, were done so by the Australian Commonwealth Postmaster-General's Department, not by the "States".

However, the "*Post and Telegraph Act 1901*" was not enacted into law until November 1, 1901. Interestingly enough Colonial stamps were never demonetised, and most continued to be valid for use (in any State) after 1901 - indeed were fully legal on any Australian mail until February 14, 1968. Many collectors and dealers used them for normal mail to other collectors, as low values were very inexpensive for decades. For about a century "*Australian*" stamp issues were regarded as those commencing with the Kangaroo and Map series in 1913. The ground breaking ACSC catalogue (correctly) broadly defined them as any stamps issued since 1901. Curiously, despite Queen Victoria dying in January 1901, nearly all stamps on sale across Australia, until the Kangaroo series was issued in 1913, featured her image - which itself was over 70 years old.

Article written by Glen Stephens and submitted by Cliff Matthews

# Bar Coded Stamps!!!

At a recent stamp club meeting a member raised the topic of the British Postal Service introducing bar-coded Machin and Christmas stamps from January 31st, 2022. The following article from Norvic Philatelics provides some interesting reading.



Following a successful national trial Britain will now be adding unique barcodes to all our regular 'everyday' Definitive and Christmas stamps. Special issues, commemoratives, whatever you call them, are unaffected, which means that the older ones from 1971 will remain valid.

Each barcoded stamp will have a digital twin and the two will be connected by the Royal Mail App. The unique barcodes will facilitate operational efficiencies, enable the introduction of added security features and pave the way for innovative services for our customers.

The barcodes match the stamp colour and sit alongside the main body of the stamp, separated by a simulated perforation line. The new barcode is an integral part of the stamp and must remain intact for the stamp to be valid.

Non-barcoded stamps will be phased out but will remain usable until 31 January 2023. Customers are encouraged to use their non-barcoded stamps before this date. Alternatively, non-barcoded stamps can be exchanged for the new barcoded version through Royal Mail's 'Swap Out' scheme that isn't available from post offices.

If you post an item with a non-barcoded stamp after 31 January 2023 it will be liable to surcharge — as it will be the equivalent of it having no postage.

**The benefits to Royal Mail** are enormous - the pallet-loads of forgeries coming in to the country from the east will lose their usability at a stroke, and anybody to exchange them will almost certainly be questioned as to where they obtained them, and told that they will not be accepted.

Similarly the task of Revenue Protection officers will be eased - no longer will they have to check whether the landscape orange 1st class self-adhesive stamp, or the 1st class black with imperforate edges are genuine. All these will be removed from postal duty.

**Phosphor bands.** The 2nd class stamps have a single phosphor band placed centrally over the Machin part of the design. All the remainder will have two phosphor bands placed on the die-cut perforations to the left, and the printed 'perforation' design, to the right.



*All images above are pre-issue publicity images. Coloured highlights show position of phosphor bands, which will be transparent and colourless as usual.*

## Watch our exclusive Shaun the Sheep video

An interesting concept is that the new barcoded stamps enable you to watch and share an exclusive Shaun the Sheep video via the barcode itself using the Royal Mail App. You or the recipient can watch the video just by scanning the stamp barcode using our App. More videos will be added over the coming months.



**Will Bar Codes be the next security measure that will be imposed on Australians?**



# Bahrain Camel Post Stamps

The Bahrain Camel Stamps are not stamps at all—they are philatelic fantasies, the creation of a New Zealand academic who held a post at the Bahrain University in the 1980s.

He thought up the Camel Post idea to relieve the tedium of the posting and to raise funds for a local charity. The original artwork was prepared by British artist Gerald King and was closely modelled on the 1898 1 mill camel post stamps of Sudan, even emulating the colour and denominations.



The first printing (Brown and Pink) was released in 1986, the second release was in November 1987, also Brown and Pink but with an Arabic overprint in red.



The third printing (Claret and Rosine) was issued in December 1988 with a Black Arabic overprint.



The fourth and final issue (Green and Orange) occurred in 1990 with the operation ceasing on July 1st, 1990.



# New Zealand

## Pigeon Post



Great Barrier Island (Aotea) was the first place in New Zealand to have a regular airmail service, by pigeon post.

The idea for the service came in 1896 when a writer for the New Zealand Herald, reporting from the island, filed his story to the mainland using a pigeon named Ariel. Ariel arrived in Auckland in less than two hours, and her owner Walter Fricker saw an opportunity to establish a regular communication service. In 1897 the Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency began; the first regular airmail service in New Zealand.

Before the pigeon post service was established the only regular connection between the community on Great Barrier Island (90 kilometres northeast of Auckland) and the mainland was provided by a weekly coastal steamer. The island's isolation was highlighted when the SS Wairarapa was wrecked off its coast in 1894, with the loss of 121 lives, and the news took several days to reach the mainland.



Within months of Fricker starting up his Agency there was a rival pigeongram company on the island called The Original Great Barrier Pigeon-gram Service. This company set a precedent by becoming the first to issue stamps to pre-pay the cost of sending messages, an innovation that was unique in the world at the time. However, it was quickly followed by the Agency which issued distinctive and attractive triangular stamps. Stamps from both companies are now highly sought after by collectors. Although unofficial (not issued by the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department) they were effectively the world's earliest airmail stamps, pre-dating the first recorded aeroplane flight by several years.

On the island, pigeongram agencies were established at Port Fitzroy, Okupu, and Whangaparara. Birds were sent over to the island on the weekly steamer and flew back to Auckland with up to five messages per bird written on tissue paper and attached to their legs. Initially the service operated only from Great Barrier Island to Auckland, the reverse route being considered uneconomical. Eventually birds were trained to work in the other direction but it still cost twice as much to send a letter from Auckland as it did to send one from Great Barrier Island (see Patea Mail 31 July 1899, 2).

The service continued until 1908 when the installation of an underwater telegraphic cable made pigeon-grams unnecessary.

The 1997 postal stamps mark the centenary of the first flight. They were triangular, like the stamps made by the Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency in 1899.



## Royal Mail celebrates winners of world's largest stamp-design contest

Royal Mail honours frontline workers, scientists and others in a March 23, 2022 issue of Heroes of the COVID Pandemic set of eight stamps. The stamp designs feature the winning entries in a nationwide design contest for school-age children.

Royal Mail received 606,049 entries from 7,479 schools in the competition, breaking the Guinness world record for the largest postage stamp-design competition. The previous record for entries in a stamp-design competition was achieved in 2013 when Royal Mail received 239,374 entries for a Christmas stamp-design competition.

The only other use of children's art on Great Britain's stamps up to now has been on the 1992 Protect the Environment set. A special judging panel consisting of Prime Minister Johnson, Royal Mail CEO Thompson, the family of Capt. Thomas Moore and others narrowed the list to 24 regional winners. From this list, Prince Charles chose the eight winning designs. Queen Elizabeth approved the finished stamp designs.



The winners each received a voucher for £1,000 as well as another £1,000 for their school. The 16 regional winners each received £500 and £500 for their school, and the 96 regional runners-up each received £100 and £100 for their school.

Eight different designs, appear on eight stamps measuring 37 millimeters by 35mm each and perforated gauge 14 by 14.5 valued at the first-class rate (85 pence on the date of issue). The artist's name and the design title are inscribed in the border of each stamp.

## World War II Polish government-in-exile stamps



Arguably no nation suffered more grievous harm in World War II than Poland. Invaded and dismembered by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union in 1939, Poland languished under the most brutal occupations imaginable only to be abandoned and betrayed by the Western Allies to Soviet domination at the war's conclusion.

Poland had a pre-war population of about 35 million. Of these, about 400,000 Polish soldiers died in the war, while 5.2 million civilians (3 million of them were Jews who perished in the Holocaust) were killed.

Despite their homeland being crushed between two totalitarian giants, Polish soldiers, sailors and airmen fought on —in the Home Army in occupied Poland; in the battles of France and Britain; in the Battle of the Atlantic at sea; with the Allied forces in North Africa; on the Eastern Front with the Soviets; and in Italy, the Netherlands and France

As the Nazis and Soviets completed their destruction of Poland, the Polish government-in-exile with Wladyslaw Raczkiewicz as its president was established in London.

In 1941, the Polish government-in-exile began issuing postage stamps for use on letters and packages posted from Polish warships and merchant vessels.



# Quirky Philatelic Facts



In Elk Mound, Wisconsin, there stands a three-story observation tower built in 1937, dedicated to rural mail carriers of Dunn County. [The Dead Mailmen Castle](#) is open to visitors, but with a warning to proceed with caution, as it may be haunted!

In 1918, some accidentally upside-down printed stamps were lost. These were very valuable and are referred to as the 'inverted Jenny'. Only 100 copies have been found to date.

**Undersea Post Office**  
The only underwater post office in the world is located at Nassau in the Bahamas. Its official title is "Sea Floor, Nassau, Bahamas." Founded by the famous explorer of marine life, John Ernest Williamson, the post office is situated in the underwater chamber known as the Williamson Photosphere from which the explorer pictures the wonders of the deep in the coral decorated sea floor. The post office has its own cancellation and postage stamp, the only one in existence showing scenes of undersea life.

Many different types of animals have been used to deliver mail – camels, reindeer, horses, dogs, pigeons, but CATS? Well it's true. In 1879 Liege, Belgium employed 37 cats to carry bundles of letters to villages. This service didn't last long as cats proved to be thoroughly undisciplined.

John Edward Gray, a British zoologist, was often described as the first stamp-collecting individual in the world. With the intention of saving them, he bought many Penny Black stamps on the day they were first issued to the public. What he did made him the world's first stamp collector.

In April 2001 Gibraltar achieved a Guinness World Record by issuing the fastest stamp in history. A photograph of HM Queen Elizabeth II was taken that morning at Buckingham Palace for the Gibraltar stamps. The photo was emailed immediately to the Bureau's office in Gibraltar where the sheet was designed by Stephen Perera and then sent to the printers who commenced printing at 10.00am that same day. At midday, a representative of the Crown Agents flew to Gibraltar with the printed stamps and the stamps were put on sale that same afternoon (exactly 624 minutes after the photograph was taken.)

# August Stamp Quiz

- Both large and small varieties of these, are featured on early Finland stamps (1856-58):
  - opals
  - pearls
  - rubies
  - Emeralds
- What is the unusual inscription on stamps issued by the Netherlands?
- Jordan's first stamp as an independent kingdom (1946) depicts:
  - Kerak Castle
  - its monarch
  - symbols of peace and liberty
  - its flag
- Stamps inscribed "Island" are from an island country but not just any island. What nation issues these stamps?
- Kiribati, among the first to usher in every new year, issued a stamp in 1979, depicting the country's flag....and on this flag is shown:
  - pale blue and white stripes
  - the Southern Cross
  - the sun on a watery horizon
  - a map of the islands group
- In 1861 all previously issued American postage stamps were declared invalid for postage. What caused this?
- How many stamps were in the GVI Festival of Britain set issued in May, 1951?
- Which country issued a Twelve Pence Black, and in which year?
- Some collectors like to collect the entire envelope that has gone through the mails. Philatelists have a name for these. What is it?
  - Covers
  - Enclosures
  - Entires
  - Cancels
- What were the two elements of a Duplex Cancellation?
- Which famous British ship featured on the top value (1s 0d) stamp in the British Ships set issued in January 1969?
- As the person who purchased a collection of Penny Black on the day they were issued, who is considered the first stamp collector?
- The 1902 Western Australia £1 Orange Queen Victoria was not a true Western Australian Stamp?  
True                  False
- If you have a smart phone and a Royal Mail app what video can you watch when you scan the bard code on certain Machin stamps?
- Who designed the artwork for the Bahrain Camel Post "stamps"?
- What event provided the impetus for the introduction of the New Zealand Pigeon post?
- Who designed the Royal Mail stamps that honour the COVID front line workers and why did it gain entry as a Guinness world record ?
- Where is the only under water Post Office located and what is it known as?
- Where is the Dead Mailmen Castle located and what do you need to look out for when visiting?
- Why did the 2001 Gibraltar stamp featuring Queen Elizabeth II gain entry in the Guinness Book of World Record ?

**For an extra challenge try to identify the faces on the stamps at this website**

<https://www.zoo.com/quiz/87-people-cant-name-these-people-who-are-stamps-can-you>

