



Welcome to the September 2022 edition of the BPS Newsletter

This Month we welcomed renowned Philatelist Alex Stoneman to our Meeting. Alex presented a very interesting award winning display of early Australian Postage Dues.



We also welcome and congratulate the new Committee recently appointed at the AGM last month.

An important priority of the meeting was to discuss all the arrangements needed for our 9th October 2022 Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair.

Publicity, arranging table bookings, additional flyers now printed, competition details including the excellent prizes being provided by the club. We will be using extensive advertising with press starting 4 weeks out and hopefully some positive editorial which we hope will win us some new members as well. Julie Turner Secretary of Geelong PS is keen to help get the two clubs involved again. We resolved to promote each others Club Fairs which fall on consecutive days in October. Cliff is placing our Fair details on Stamp Boards. The Australia Post Bulletin advertisement is in place as well.

We have approached Seniors Month Ballarat which is October this year for additional support and Ballarat City Council. Thanks also to Club Members who handed out over 50 flyers at the recent Bendigo Fair. We congratulate Bendigo PS on conducting a successful Fair after Covid. We also met with our friends from Warragul Club who once again arranged a bus to bring members to the Bendigo Fair. We can learn from them!

I have arranged for our flyers are also to be handed out at the Gem Fest on 20th August.

I am pleased to report that both our Ballarat Historical Covers and overprinted Mini Sheets are again selling well.

The Club is keen to reignite regular joint Get together/Auctions with Geelong, Bendigo, Maryborough, Warrnambool and others if possible. Secretary Jan Kerr has sent out an Invitation to these Clubs to join us for the September Meeting. We invite any Club Members to bring up to 10 auction items to that Meeting. Ballarat Members please remember to bring supper.

The APF News generously acknowledged our Club and its efforts at promoting Philately over many years in an article in their bulletin this month. Thanks Jack and Pat.

The ongoing progress of our new website was discussed and we are to take photos of the Fair for inclusion and we need to make sure that the site is up to date with all relevant news. We have a fifth August Monday meeting on the 29th of August. We hope to gain some sponsors on our new website.

The September Meeting will be the Joint Club Gathering with an auction and supper on 19th September at 7pm.

Peter Morey President Ballarat Philatelic Society

Inside this issue:

October Stamp Fair	2
Ballarat Philatelic Society 2022 Syllabus & Notes	3
News and Event	4
The Christmas Card Local Post Delivery Service	5
British Philatelic Artist	6/7
Royal Mail Transformer Stamps	8
Fantastic Crpto Stamps	9
August/September Quiz	10

Next Newsletter

The next edition of the Ballarat Philatelic Society Newsletter is due early October/November. Contributions are always welcome, please email to info@ballaratstampclub.com.au We are happy to promote other stamp club events

Ballarat Eureka Stamps & Coins Fair

**Sunday 9th
October 2022**

9.30am - 3.30pm

Eastwood Leisure Centre,
20 Eastwood Street,
Ballarat



To order contact –

Peter Morey

petermorey05@gmail.com

0435 601 673

Still a few available

- ◆ **Orders processed in order of receipt with payment.**
- ◆ **Allow \$2 postage or \$4.50 registered mail.**
Overseas clients allow for 15% for PayPal.
- ◆ **Direct Payment (new details)**
BSB: 013 516 A/C: 642092592
Ref: Your Name
- ◆ **Cheques payable to**
Ballarat Philatelic Society

For Sale:

Limited Editions Series 25 of the
Ballarat Historical Envelopes.
Featuring a corner of Lake
Wendouree, Ballarat.

Only \$3

Overprinted Australia Post
'Postcards to the Front'

Miniature sheet.

Overprinted letterpress on a Heidelberg Platen
machine, utilizing hot metal handset type.



**Note: These items sell out quickly,
so get your orders in early!**

BALLARAT PHILATELIC SOCIETY inc.

A 0012556J

Established 1904

SYLLABUS 2022

Meetings:

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

3rd and 5th Mondays of each month (except December)

Eastwood Leisure Centre

20 Eastwood Street, Ballarat

Membership \$5.00

Visitors welcome

September 19 Inter-club social night and auction

Annual Membership Due

October 31

Circuit Sheets and

Committee Meeting

October 9 (Sunday)

Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair

Eastwood Leisure Centre

November 21

Mystery Guest Speaker

October 17 Other Collections or Hobbies Night

(Club Newsletter items due)

December

End of year Function

Date and Venue to be advised

BPS 2022/2023 Committee

President: Peter Morey.

Vice President: Pat Tacey.

Treasurer: Brian Wallis.

Secretary: Jan Kerr

Exchange Secretary: Neil Petrass.

Web Master: Pat Tacey.

Committee Members: Keith Sanders, Frank Myers, Ione Myers, Trish Simmons, Sarah Waugh, Jack Van Beveren.

Thank you

The Ballarat Philatelic Society would like to acknowledge Freda Bailey's donation of the late Danny Bailey's collection of Ballarat Stamps Fair Souvenirs

Ballarat Philatelic Society's New Webpage

ballaratphilatelicsociety.com.au

If you have any photos, memorabilia, documents etc. that can be added to our content it would be most appreciated.

The Members' Section will be password controlled and only accessible to paid up members, the password will be changed at regular intervals. This will be the area where material relevant to club members but not the general public will be available. This section is still to be activated.

Communication with the Ballarat Stamp Club via email is

info@ballaratstampclub.com.au

What's Happening Around the Clubs?

BALLARAT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

INTERCLUB GET TOGETHER & AUCTION

(UP TO 10 ITEMS EACH)

7.00PM SEPTEMBER 19TH 2022

EASTWOOD LEISURE COMPLEX

20 EASTWOOD STREET BALLARAT CENTRAL.

SUPPER PROVIDED

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 15th

FOR CATERING PURPOSES.

info@ballaratstampclub.com.au or Phone JAN KERR: 0450172165

We also invite you to put in a display of up to 15 sheets for our October Fair. You can bring them with you on the night as they need to be in by September 30th for judging. Prizes awarded.

Maryborough Stamp Fair

Saturday, 22nd October 2022

at St Augustine's Hall from 9.30 am to 3pm.

Melbourne & Local Dealers (some coins/notes)

Refreshments available.

Free Entry & Free Street Parking

Latrobe Valley Stamp Club

Fair

Saturday 15th October

at Uniting Church Park Lane Traralgon 3844

Hours 9am till 3pm

The Christmas Card Local Post Delivery Service

Sheffield – England

Beginning in 1981 the Sheffield Boy Scouts conducted a local mail delivery service in the Christmas period. The British Post Office approved the service because it relieved the pressure on postal staff in a peak period. The Scouts were authorised to collect and deliver Christmas cards throughout the Sheffield area that at the time had a population of around 60,000. They were not allowed to handle letters, packets, or parcels, only Christmas cards.

Special Scout stamps, with a new design each year were attached to envelopes instead of ordinary UK stamps and the Scouts donated part of the proceeds each year to local charities.

At its inception Woodseats Venture Scout Unit delivered approximately 11,000 cards in the Sheffield and Dronfield area. Their first charity stamp was produced showing the unit's emblem, a graphic hedgehog and the scout badge printed in sepia.

In 1982 fifty six other scout groups joined the scheme delivering 184,000 cards throughout the whole city, each bearing one of five special stamps depicting line drawings of modern Sheffield building. The operation continued to grow with other organisations joining.



In 1985 the Scouts started a long association with local artist Barbara Mitchell, whose full colour illustrations of wild British animals proved popular stamp designs. By this time over 500,000 cards were being delivered.

Barbara Mitchell had no formal training which enabled her to develop a unique style paying particular attention to the individual character of her birds and animals and placing them in exquisite, but realistic settings. She worked almost obsessively from her "Dover Lodge" studio in Sheffield, with field trips, thousands of preparatory sketches, along with a large collection of taxidermy and skins that enabled her to capture exact detail in her works.

The Sheffield Scout Post ceased to operate after 2000 due to the closure of some Groups and the withdrawal of participation by others that reduced the level of support below that deemed necessary to provide a satisfactory service. Having said this there is a reference on the internet indicating that "Scouts are once again offering their special Christmas postal service for 2021 in the Ipswich and Felixstowe area. Cost will be 30p per card (any size)."



British Philatelic Artist Gerald M King

The very talented British Philatelic artist Gerald M King has produced many Cinderella/Fantasy stamps. Commencing in 1965, Gerald produced a set of 34 stamps to celebrate the wonderful creation of Wonderland after Great Britain opted not to issue a commemorative stamp to honour the hundredth anniversary of Lewis Carroll's most famous publication *Alice In Wonderland*.

For more than 50 years Gerald released hundreds of fantasy stamps and other philatelic items that covered a range of topics and themes including (but not limited to)

Wonderland, his most famous serving of delightful and humorous labels that were divided into 4 areas:

- Pre Alice stamps, Pre Alice covers.
- Alice in Wonderland
- Alice through the looking glass.
- Wonderland Commemorates and Wonderland Christmas Cards



- Alternate Lundy
- Snark Island (another Lewis Carroll creation discussed in a previous newsletter)
- Elizatoria

Gerald's artistic ability to mimic anything philatelic is brilliant! His covers and stamps are exceptionally diverse including most topics collected by serious philatelist. The humour involved can be appreciated by all.

Elizatoria

The year is 2012 World War 3, instigated by the revolt of stamp collectors against the appalling trash thrust upon them, is ended. The combined forces of Wonderland, Narnia, and Middle Earth stand victorious.



British Philatelic Artist Gerald M King continued

Elizatoria

The Treaty of Snark realigns the frontiers ... the British Empire is restored to its former glory ... Sterling currency is reintroduced together with the classic Victorian stamp designs to frame Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in a manner of Royalty befitting as she celebrates her 60th year of reign.



Gerald King also designed some stamps that weren't sold by him as Cinderellas. Normally they were used by Gerald on the reverse of his letters.

The sheet to the left is a sheet of 10 different perforated labels showing examples of Cinderellas designed by him.

Royal Mail Transformers Stamps

Anyone who had youngsters (mainly boys) in the 1980s will remember the 'Robots in Disguise'.

The *Transformers* began with the 1980s Japanese toy lines *Micro Change* and *Diaclone*. They presented robots able to transform into everyday vehicles, electronic items or weapons. (Wikipedia).

Optimus is the leader of the Autobots, a faction of Transformers who are rivals of the Decepticons, another faction. He is defined by his strong moral character and is almost always portrayed as the primary hero of the story, opposing the evil Decepticon leader Megatron.

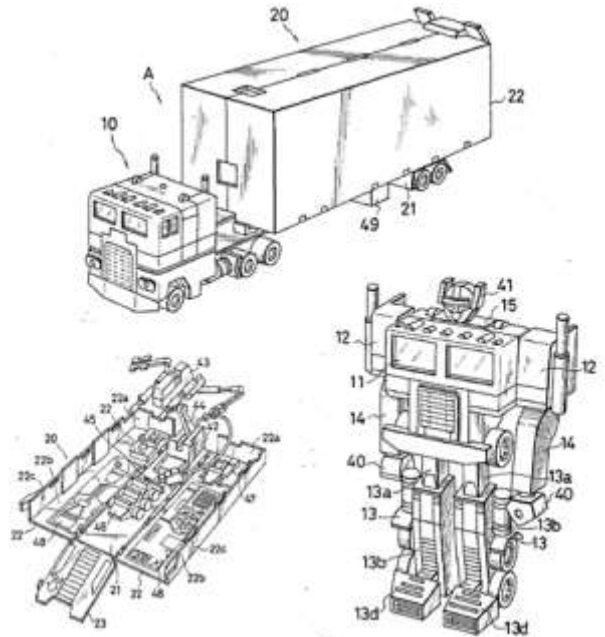
And there, or thereabouts, it ended for many as boys grew up and children became men.

But Hasbro bought into the toys, and hired Marvel Comics to create the backstory, a tv series was started and in 1986 the first film. And of course there were the comics. You can read more about it all on [Wikipedia](#).

As with much of what Marvel have been involved in, merchandise was important, as were fan clubs and conventions. Which brings up the big unknown - when will you see the stamps? The answer is September 1st when a set of eight stamps will be released.

And there's MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE with this special set of stamps...

Each stamp is printed with a **hidden ink** which reveals each of the character's faction logos and names in the Cybertronian alphabet when UV light is shone on it. Each stamp will also trigger a **unique augmented reality animation** including a clip from the original Transformers TV series – simply download the Royal Mail App and choose *Scan a Stamp* to watch it



Optimus Prime instruction diagram: Hiroyuki Obara., Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Fantastic Crypto Stamps

Cryptocurrencies have been making headlines for the past years, as they have gained in popularity, and moved from being a very small niche, to being relatively commonplace. As it often is with new technology, we know that cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology have immense potential, but as of now, it is unclear exactly how the technology is going to be integrated into our lives.

When new technologies come along, they are integrated into many different aspects of our life, to see whether this makes sense or not, in a form of trial and error. Below we see exactly this - postal services from around the globe have been experimenting with implementing crypto technology into postal stamps.

Since we are talking about something new, it is almost expected to see something spectacular from the Austrian postal service - and they certainly delivered! Check out the incredible stamp to the right, which was issued in Austria. This golden whale crypto stamp has a stunning design with a black background covered in golden sea animals. When you purchase the stamp, you receive the physical stamp, but on top of that, you receive a digital twin, which is available on a blockchain, which might mark the beginning of your digital stamp collection.



The stamp displayed is the gold edition of the stamp, and to highlight this, the stamp actually has a 1 gram fine gold bar attached to it! As the stamp is based on the blockchain, you can use the NFC chip in the stamp to verify its authenticity, simply by holding your smartphone close to the stamp.



There is also this wonderful stamp from Liechtenstein. This stamp focuses on blockchain technologies in Liechtenstein, and is called Stamp 4.0, signalling that this stamp is a foray into uncharted territory.

The stamp design focuses on perspective, which is clear with the shape that takes centre stage in the stamp. The shape is mind-bending as the design seems to change based on what part of the shape you are focusing on. The stamp is embedded in a souvenir sheet featuring the same design as the stamp itself.

The stamp has an embedded SQR code on it, which can be scanned by your phone, to verify the authenticity of the stamp. The stamp also comes with an app, where you can solve puzzles, and by solving every puzzle in the app, you are rewarded with a digital prize in the form of an NFT.

The stamp truly pushes the limits for what stamps are and how we can integrate stamps and technology more closely.

The three UN postal services in New York, Geneva, and Vienna have created what is known as the UN Crypto Stamp, which is a new way of collecting UN stamps, in addition to your existing, physical collection.

What this actually means is that, when you purchase a UN Crypto Stamp, you scratch off the grey part of the stamp, which reveals a secret code. You can then use this code to unlock the unique digital version of your stamp, which will be available on the Ethereum blockchain.

Here you will have your private collection of digital UN stamps, and if for some reason you would like to sell or transfer them to someone else, you can do so using the Ethereum blockchain.

Each of the physical stamps included in the sheets containing the stamp codes depict the local UN headquarter.



August September Quiz

I had a request for some easy questions, so the answers to this quiz can be found on our webpage, in the current newsletter and in the latest stamp bulletin (if you don't receive a copy in the mail you can access it at <https://australiapostcollectables.com.au/stamp-bulletin>)

1. What is the Ballarat Stamp Club's email address?
2. What famous Australian has a 50th Anniversary recognised with a stamp issue in October?
3. Which country issues a crypto stamp containing a small gold bar?
4. When is the Eureka Stamp fair held?
5. Name the dinosaurs depicted on the September 5th stamp issue.
6. Which one could fly and where was its fossils found?
7. Who designed the Wonderland Fantasy Stamps?
8. What was the emblem of the Woodseats Venture Scout Unit?
9. Whose full colour illustrations of wild British proved popular stamp designs for the Sheffield *Christmas Card Local Post Delivery Service*?
10. Under which tab on the Ballarat Stamp Club website would you find the club's history?
11. Who was the most recent Ballarat Stamp Club member awarded life membership?
12. On what date was the Education Act passed in Victoria? (stamp bulletin)
13. Art of George Raper is featured on the next Norfolk Island stamp issue, where is his work held?
14. What special features do the Royal Mail Transformer stamp have?
15. What was the name of the company that printed Gerald King's labels?
16. When are articles for the next Ballarat Stamp Club newsletter due? Don't forget any reader can contribute articles!
17. What is special about the stamp pack available with the Roses stamps issued on September 13th?
18. Who do you contact if you would like to purchase Ballarat Historical Envelopes and Overprinted Australia Post 'Postcards to the Front' miniature sheets?
19. Who designed the Ballarat Stamp Club website?
20. How many of the main rivers in Australia belong to the Murray Darling System? (Stamp Bulletin)



