



# 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 \$15 (for 2022/23)

Visitors Welcome

## Welcome to the November edition of Ballarat Stamp Club's Newsletter

Our long awaited Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair was held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October and it was a great success. Almost 200 visitors came to the Eastwood Leisure Centre and we noted quite a few new people attending.



Our thanks go to the Club Members who 'manned' the Club table and special thanks to Jack van Beveren and others for arranging the Display frames which is a big job. Frank Myers and I ably handled the Catering and Frank built new safety ramps for the Centre. Thanks to everybody who helped. It was great to catch up with Club Members from Bendigo, Geelong, Maryborough, Warragul and others. We thank Bendigo Club for assisting with promoting our Fair.

Jack van Beveren advises that the March Fair will include Displays only, NOT a Competition. We invite other Club Members to enter. Please have a go!

We took on board some suggestions from Dealers and others in relation to signage, publicity, a survey of visitors and suitability of access to the two rooms. Your committee is considering these issues for the next Fair on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

The Committee is also considering seeking Sponsorship for our fast-growing new Website and we have reached agreement with Sovereign Hill for the future Post Marking of our very popular 'Historical Covers of Ballarat area'.

We also had a Press Advertising Campaign leading up to the Fair seeking New Members to join our Club. We hope this will bear fruit!

We sold out of the Australia Post Mini sheets and most of the Covers. This is very important for the finances of our Club. We propose to continue this with a series of new images for later next year as well. We still have customers all over Australia and in the UK, Canada and USA.

Jan Kerr our Secretary has been very active with her ideas and the Minute Taking as well.

The very popular 'Free Stamps for Kids' Program is being handled by Trish Simmons.

**Guest Speaker** for the 21<sup>st</sup> November Meeting is **Ross Newton President of Brighton PS**. Members are asked to contact Jan with offers to bring a 'plate' for supper.

Peter Morey President Ballarat PS

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## Next Newsletter

The next edition of the Ballarat Philatelic Society Newsletter is due January February. Contributions are always welcome, please email to [info@ballaratstampclub.com.au](mailto:info@ballaratstampclub.com.au) We are also happy to promote other stamp club events

# 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 \$15.00

Visitors welcome

November 21	Mystery Guest Speaker	December	End of year Function
			Date and Venue to be advised
December 7	Masterpieces in Miniature 10.30am to 11.30am	January 16	Club Meeting
	<b>Art and Design in Postage Stamps</b>	January 30	Committee Meeting
	<b>Maryborough Resource Centre Atrium</b>		Circuit Sheets

### **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.

## **Ballarat Philatelic Society's New Webpage**

[ballaratphilatelicsociety.com.au](http://ballaratphilatelicsociety.com.au)

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

**Our website is still evolving.**

**To keep up to date with club activities view the Home Page or the Coming Events Tab**

**Communication with the Ballarat Stamp Club via email is**

[info@ballaratstampclub.com.au](mailto:info@ballaratstampclub.com.au)

**Vale for George Barber**, former President and Member of the Maryborough Stamp Club from 1983 to 2011. George passed away mid-October around 84 years old. Some of you will remember George as a passionate collector of Pidgeon stamps, and he had a very fine collection which was exhibited in Christchurch, and Canberra. George's wife Libby passed away a few years ago, and their only son Nick is now cared for in Asteria, Maryborough.

Members of the Ballarat Stamp Club would also like to wish **Alex Stoneman** from the Maryborough Stamp Club a speedy recovery from his recent surgery.

# What's Happening Around the Club?

## Ballarat Stamp Club Guest Speaker Meeting

Monday November 21st  
7.30pm, supper to follow

Our guest speaker for this evening is  
**Ross Newton President of Brighton PS.**  
**Visitors Welcome**

Members are asked to contact Jan with offers to bring a 'plate' for supper.

## October Eureka Stamp Fair



For the first time in over 2 years we were able to hold our Stamp and Coins Fair at the Eastwood Leisure Centre in Ballarat. The event proved to be quite successful with almost 200 patrons passing through the doors and many spending up much to the delight of the 12 dealers/traders who came along and supported the event.

Five members provided displays for other members and visitors to view and these created a lot of interest. The displays covered a variety of topics with **Peter Morey** presenting Cinderellas and WW11 and Victoria Revenues; **Keith Sanders** - South Atlantic Islands, French Africa and British Colonies Royal Charter; **Jack van Beveren** - Norfolk Island, the Province of Bumbunga, Lord Howe Island, Austrian Balloon Covers and Gerald M. King; **Cliff Matthews** - Franklin D. Roosevelt, United States Submarines Covers, United States Patriotic Covers WW2, and War time Airmail Covers and **Pat Tacey** – Australia at the Olympic Games and Countries that have Changed their Name. Hopefully for future fairs more members and outsiders are willing to dip their toes in the water and put up a display for others to see what interests you.

On the following pages I have selected one page from three different displays for your interest. Displays can consist of up to 15 sheets and it is not practical to present all here, if you would like to see more of the displays, speak to the people who made them, likewise if you would like to put together a display and need assistance speak to other club members.



Our fair also actively promoted "stamps for kid" with every child who came along given a small gift of stamps, albums etc. This proved to be a real hit with some budding philatelists.



Thank you to all involved, especially Neil Petras who got the table holders along, Peter Morey who organised and sold the Miniature Sheets and Covers, Lone and Frank Myers for the catering and all the members who helped set up, meet and greet and at the end of a long day pack up. Thank you also to the traders who supported us and the public and members of other clubs who checked out our fair.

## US Naval Submarines

Cliff Matthews presented a 25 sheet display of covers highlighting Submarines of the US Navy. His display consisted of a page that detailed the history of US submarines that began with the USS Turtle in 1775 and traces the evolution of this unique piece of naval equipment through to the present day. Below is a sample page from Cliff's display.

### U.S.S. Florida (SSBN-728).

#### Commissioning

18<sup>th</sup> June 1983.

**USS Florida (SSBN-728/SSGN-728)**, an *Ohio*-class cruise missile submarine, is the sixth vessel of the United States Navy to be named for the U.S. state of Florida. She was commissioned with the hull designation of SSBN-728; with her conversion to a cruise missile submarine, from a ballistic missile submarine, she was re-designated SSGN-728.

The contract to build her was awarded to the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut, on 28 February 1975 and her keel was laid down on the bicentennial of the United States independence, 4 July 1976. The boat was unnamed at the keel-laying ceremony.

The initial boat's crew formed the pre commissioning unit on 8 July 1980. The first duty watches were stationed on 14 February 1981 to support the operational control transfer of engineering systems to boat's force control. The Secretary of the Navy finally named her on 19 January 1981.

*Florida* was launched on 14 November 1981 sponsored by Mrs. Marcia M. Carlucci, wife of then Deputy Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci. The reactor was initially taken critical on 13 November 1982; the boat went into service and the crew moved onboard on 21 January 1983. *Florida* commenced initial builders' sea trials on 21 February 1983 and was subsequently delivered to the Navy on 17 May 1983, 43 days ahead of schedule. She was commissioned on 18 June 1983, with Captain William L. Powell in command of the Blue Crew and Captain George R. Sterner in command of the Gold Crew.



### Commissioning

SSBN 728



June 18, 1983

The Great Seal  
of the United States  
1782-1982



USA 20c



FIRST DAY  
IN  
COMMISSION

Sponsored by Admiral Byrd Chapter #11

## A Postal History of French Africa

Keith Sanders 15 page display traces the evolution of French Africa from the establishment of French colonies in the late 1800's, often won by wars of occupation fought by the French Army and battalions of the French Foreign Legion to the time where most of these colonies gained independence from the early 1960's. Below is a sample page from Keith's Display.

**ALGERIA - FRANCE 1945**

Adhesives:	50c., 1F50 "Marianne" 1944	Perf. 12	Printed: Lithography
	1F Gallic cock 1944 (3)	Perf. 12	Printed: Lithography
Cancellations:	R DE STRASBOURG ALGER 16 30 10 -4 45		Cachets: PARAVION OFFICIEL

**FRENCH WESTERN AFRICA - FRANCE 1947?**

Adhesives:	Afrique Occidentale Française: 1F Soldiers 1945	Perf. 11.5	Printed: Litho, De La Rue & Co
	1F Donkey caravan (4)	Perf. 12.5	Printed: Recess, Inst. de Gravure, Paris
Cancellations:	DAKAR SUCCHRSALE 1 AVRIL ?? (4)		

By 1895 there were no less than six colonies covering a vast unbroken stretch of the continent in the regions surrounding Senegal. For administrative efficiency these were amalgamated to become French Western Africa. Dakar became the capital and remained the centre of the region until all the separate colonies won their independence.

Peter Morey's theme for his 15 page mixed display of Cinderellas, Seals and World War II featuring Philatelic Exhibition covers with Cinderellas attached and a Cinderella for Legendary Australian Sir Hubert Opperman. He also presented 1948 and 1949 NSW Anti Tuberculosis Christmas Seals as well as a 1946 Myer Food Parcel Label. Below is a sample page of Peter's display.

## Chevalier Sir Hubert (Oppy) Opperman OBE OSJ



Australian  
High Commissioner  
to Malta  
Inaugural holder  
Hubert Opperman  
Formation 1967



Sir Hubert was Invested into the Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller in 1974. He was elevated to the position of Vice Grand Prior in 1983 and Acting Grand Prior in 1989. He remained a Member of the Order until his passing in 1996.

He won the seat of Corio which he held for 17 years and in 1996 was appointed Australia's First High Commissioner to Malta was Knighted and made Knight Bachelor in 1968. He held several Ministerial positions highlighting the need for Bike-Ed for children and support for Asian Students.

Above is a 'Cinderella' signed by 'Oppy' produced in 1937 when he rode his bike from Fremantle to Sydney to raise funds for the Infantile Paralysis After-Care Fund, Victoria. In his time he was as famous as Don Bradman or race horse Pharlap! He broke 58 World Records for Cycling and his cycling career ended when he joined the RAF for the duration of WWII – A Life Well Lived!



This statue of Oppy is located in Moore St; Rochester



# François Fournier (stamp forger)

Fournier did not become involved with the philatelic business until later life.

In about 1903 he returned to Switzerland and settled in Geneva, where in May 1904 he bought the stock of Louis-Henri Mercier, real name *Henri Goegg*, who had gone bankrupt. It is at about this time that Fournier began his business producing facsimile stamps.



The business grew rapidly, and from 1910 to 1913 Fournier produced his own journal and price list, *Le Fac-Simile*. He claimed agents in 23 countries and in 1913 stated that he had 10,000 approval customers and 10,000 catalogue customers. His last price list in 1914 shows 3,671 different stamps for sale, although not all were his own creations.

At first Fournier was on good terms with stamp dealers and philatelic societies. However, as his business grew and his facsimiles started to be passed off as the real thing by unscrupulous dealers and collectors, a backlash developed against him, and he found his wares banned by dealers and his advertising blocked. The creation of *Le Fac-Simile* in 1910 was one way of obtaining publicity for his business, and it was said that up to 25,000 copies of each edition were distributed. The journal was also Fournier's personal platform through which to air his grievances and to rail against his treatment by the mainstream stamp trade and particular individuals in it.

The mailing restrictions and censorship of World War I caused major problems for Fournier's business, with consignments seized and postal communications disrupted. His health, already poor, declined further, and he died in 1917. He was buried at his birthplace, Croix-de-Rozon.

One of his employees, Charles Hirschburger, attempted to continue the business but ultimately was unsuccessful. He died in 1927 and the Union Philatelique de Genève bought the remaining stock and

equipment from Hirschburger's widow in order to prevent it falling into the wrong hands. There were forgeries weighing over 800 pounds, as well as gummed stamp sheets ready for printing and the actual printing equipment. Much had been damaged by storage in damp conditions. The equipment was donated to the Geneva Museum of History. The forged stamps were printed with the words *Faux* and/or *Facsimile*. Students from the Geneva School of Arts and Crafts were employed to create 480 representative albums of Fournier's work which were sold to stamp dealers, collectors and others in 1928. In addition, the *Union* prepared a more extensive five-volume collection of Fournier's work for its library. The remaining stock was burned on 15 September 1928, under the supervision of the Bailiff of the Canton of Geneva.



# The Papuan Lakatoi

The central clichés of early Papua stamps lack subject matter variety – it’s always the lakatoi (lagatoi), a seagoing trading vessel with crab claw sails. However, a hodgepodge of overprints, frame variations, paper thicknesses, and redrawn clouds keeps collectors reaching for their magnifying loupes. Scott lists 105 types; Stanley Gibbons, parsing more finely, counts 193.

For the Motu people, this immense canoe was much more than artistry. For them, the lakatoi and its journeys (hiri) meant survival (1). When crops failed, the Motu loaded their lakatoi with the clay pots, then sailed to the Gulf of Papua where they traded for sago, a diet staple extracted from the starchy core of palm trees. The sago, somewhat like tapioca pearls, prevented starvation when local harvests dried up or washed out



with the monsoons. This pots-for-sago exchange had continued for hundreds of years before the first Europeans arrived (Magellan’s crew)



*Print from original glass negative, inspiration for the lakatoi stamp design. Auctioned at Prestige Philately, Melbourne, 2007, AU\$2415*

Hiri expeditions were treacherous. Sailing winds were unpredictable. Lives were lost. The design and construction of lakatoi is cloaked in ritual, sacred beliefs, and reverence for ancestor spirits. Special feasts were required when hiri were planned. Holy men traveled with the crew to communicate with the spirits. Ancestors were praised upon a lakatoi’s safe return. Crab claws gained totemic importance for the sake of sailors’ safety.

In the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, crab claws changed from being tribal and familial emblems to commercial symbols and generic identity badges for all Pacific Islanders. Detached from their ritual heritage, crab claws now identify hotel chains, serve as elevator button icons, and pop up as computer graphics. Ethnologists credit the 1901 lakatoi stamps for starting this cultural decay.

Thanks to <https://bigblue1840-1940.blogspot.com/2022/11/papua-buds-big-blue.html>

## World Post Day

World Post day was October 9th. This FDC from Algeria commemorates the anniversary of the Universal Postal Union.

The UPU was established in 1874 making this year its 148th anniversary.





## An Interesting Cover celebrating the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence

This well organized cover was postmarked at the Ahmedabad GPO. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was an initiative by the Indian government to recognize and promote the 75th anniversary of India's Independence. The stamp on the right commemorates the anniversary and is also a joint issue with the UAE which celebrated its 50th year in 2022. The round stamp is from 2018 and commemorates the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. And the bottom stamp is from a 2019 series featuring Indian First World War memorials. On this particular stamp is India Gate: a war memorial in Delhi.



<https://stamp-stuff.blogspot.com/2022/11/independence-of-india-75th-anniversary.html>

## EUROPA CEPT 50th Anniversary Collection

The first EUROPA stamps were issued in 1956 by the founding members of the European Coal and Steel Community, and no more than three years later, the European Conference of Telecommunications and Postal Administrations, also known as CEPT, was inaugurated, when 19 European countries decided on an expanded European cooperation.

The cooperation quickly grew to 26 members, and it served as a union for the postal administrations and telecommunications companies, working to create standards across borders. Apart from this work, CEPT also handled the issuance of the commonly themed EUROPA stamps from the first issue in 1956, and until 1992.

The EUROPA stamps have become a major collectible area, and that has only grown in the past 30 years, where there has been an increased focus on creating unique stamps from participating countries, highlighting the uniqueness of the individual countries. The EUROPA stamps allow us to see both the things that unite participating countries, and the unique qualities inherent in a culturally diverse continent.

Since 1993, PostEurop has been in charge of the management of EUROPA stamps, and over the years, the organization has grown, with more than 50 participating members issuing the commonly themed stamps.



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