

BEPS NEWSLETTER

Hasn't the year just gone by so quickly. While attendance has been down a bit we have made steady progress. Get yourself a cuppa and read on. Find out about the auction and what else is in the pipeline for the New Year.

Joining and Visiting

Ray and Peter have joined our ranks. So welcome to BEPS. Annette came down from the Gold Coast and attended our meeting in October.

Celebrating, Travelling or Recovering

Congratulations to Brenda. Finished her exams and came away with quite a few high distinctions (3 or 4) and the rest were distinctions. The huge cake covered in cream was appreciated. Other members are warned major success will also incur penalties so that everyone can help you celebrate.

Our club had a number of International travellers. Linda went to Cambodia and Vietnam, Allan and Sally to New Zealand. In addition, Glen is off to the USA as part of a school exchange program in the New Year. Have a great time.

Most clubs have people who get the flu during the winter months. BEPS have to be different. Five of our members

Johnno, Tony, John Bardsley, Ron and Joe have had prolonged medical experiences over the past few months. For some this means they have been unable to attend and for some others their attendance is controlled by their health on the day. To all, your colleagues at BEPS wish you a speedy recovery. We hope all will be well enough to make it to the auction.

Change of Meeting Dates

The December meeting has been cancelled – too close to Christmas Day. In its place there will be a special meeting in January (17th). If you do not already have a calendar for the next year come and see us or arrange for one to be sent out to you.

January means tourists on the Mid North Coast so our meeting in January will be a viewing night. So, if you are visiting our area come along to our auction. It is to be held in the club rooms 19th January 2013. (See end of article for full address and times).

Just to give you an idea of what is up for grabs check out our page on the Philas website

(www.philas.org.au/boambee_east). In early December you can access the catalogue and also view over 250 lots already scanned in. (This means you can expand the images to check out the condition before the actual auction.) The secret to a good auction is to do your homework before you get there.

BEPS will also burn discs for clubs wishing to get their own copy. If your club wishes to take advantage of this service please contact one of the BEPS executives or write to the Secretary, PO Box 229 Toormina NSW 2452. Some clubs have already indicated they would like to do this. Thank-you.

This is not just another auction. We have a genuine deceased estate. The gentleman concerned arranged for his material to go to auction then unfortunately passed away the next week. He was a seasoned traveller visiting more than 50 countries and conducting correspondence with people from a wide range of countries. Most of the material is clean "postally" used.

It comprises material sorted by countries but not necessarily in date order. It is practically all on good quality hagners. Some items have been made into smaller lots such as the joined South African pairs. Great research items abound and there are sure to be many other interesting surprises. There is little or no duplication. What may appear to be a duplicate is often a reprinting or variation of the original stamp.

Club members are advised that this is the same source which provided the Australian material. This sold out within

two weeks (no advertising necessary). We are still receiving requests for more of this material but, sorry all the post 2000 material has gone.

Junior's corner

We have not forgotten you. The cancellation of the December meeting means we just had to rearrange a few things. The award night will take place in January and again it is very, very close.

In the October challenge one youngster managed to get from the roman 8th month and the current 10th month to end up in Japan. Some lateral thinking which had many a senior collector baffled until it was explained. This challenge has again made the race for points very interesting. It will probably mean that the challenge due in January – "Make Hay While the Sun Shines" or the "Hay Notes" could well decide the outcome.

Scout 1 and Scout 2 are powering on with their challenges. They submit their work electronically because "scouts" are on the meeting night. Congratulations on being awarded your collector badges at scouts.

Juniors are reminded challenges earn points, points become BEPS money which in turn can be used to buy material or in the auction. Juniors can acquire discs with a range of challenges for next year, special reading and learning modules by contacting the club in mid-December. Please hold until then so that the scanned auction lots can be included on your disc.

Oh, did I forget to tell you that the auction has some extraordinary material for the juniors. One lot I have described as the best value for money lot in the entire auction. Remember if a junior or number of juniors bid on the lot than it will go to a junior. We expect that it will cause some fierce bidding.

That is not the only good thing to go under the hammer. In March we will have out "Out of Africa" theme night. Now is the time to start planning. This auction contains a pile of very good cheap African material featuring animals, birds and much more. Remember to be on the look-out for a costume. Our special guest presenter and co-ordinator will show something given to him from the Sultan of Zanzibar when he was about your age. This is stunning.

Junior expertise to the fore.

Congratulations to "Charlie" for helping some senior members come to grips with the technology. Sue H was able to enter details of her circuit book to the electronic record and to complete her profile on her club page. In addition Andy was able to add 5 electronic catalogues to the club computer. (Thank-you Andy for the material).

Updates required

As mentioned each person in the club has a page on which they record their collecting areas, what they are looking for and what they have available surplus to

their needs. If you have not already done so you should bring this information up to date.

Also, the Rogues Gallery is now a "Power Point" presentation and will be continually updated. Look for yourself and other members of the club. You are only on the screen for a few seconds each time so you need to pay attention. For this reason the usual Member Profile has not been included in this newsletter. It will recommence with the next issue.

Some more interesting modules have been added. "Identifying Australian watermarks" is an introduction to these troublesome stamps. A few people told us they had never seen the coloured marks on the back of the stamps before. Well, we can understand that because we put them there to make it easier for you to see the differences. This module can be added to junior discs if required. There is another module on "Getting Started" available to help you "specialise" your collecting future.

Circuit Books

The circuit books are being retired and we expect new books for the New Year. Arrangements are already in hand for these to arrive in Mid-December.

The circuit book process has been streamlined. Members will be able to ask the Circuit book administrator or Treasurer to up- date the sales section before they leave a meeting. Or, it can be updated when the books are returned.

The system is able to identify on the spot arithmetical errors and to balance the vendor books. This eliminates a great deal of work for the Circuit Book Administrators. It also provides the Treasurer and the auditor with very rapid calculations of amounts owing to vendors and decides how much belongs to the club.

There are more improvements in the pipeline for the New Year. For instance we are going to try to extend the automation to the auction process. It is a little bit too soon to do it for our next auction so have a little patience.

Finally.....

A new activity program for the next year is due. If any member has a particular topic they want included in the agenda please let us know. Or, if you want to have a go at giving a special presentation you are also free to do so. We just need to get some idea of what you want to do.

Members will be asked to build more electronic modules. Some members are already acting as mentors they will soon have the opportunity to record their marks and comments on challenges electronically. These are not available for general perusal but comments are returned to juniors and added to their history pages.

It is expected all juniors will soon start to select their own challenges from a list provided. This means we will need more people to evaluate progress. If you think

you can help please contact the Youth coordinator or the President.

Festive Greetings

To all the members of BEPS, to those who live in remote locations and we don't get to see too often, to our supporters and kind people in the community who help us with donations and their time, on behalf of the Executive of BEPS I extend Seasons Greetings.

Have a safe and joyous break, and please return to us in January refreshed and eager to enjoy our hobby.

Robert Cox

President

Note

BEPS is to be found in the

Bayldon Community Centre

Toormina Rd Toormina (near the Lyons Rd intersection).

The website contains a map to help you there.

The auction kicks off with 1-00pm.viewing and the auction is at 2.00pm.