

# BOAMBEE EAST PHILATELIC SOCIETY

## Newsletter January 2016

### Happy New Year to all.

This promises to be a year of fun with our special emphasis on our Pacific Focus Challenge.

### Tidying up 2015

Our main highlights during the past year reflect the changing nature of the club. Members are beginning to “spread their wings” a bit. This is due, in part, to most collectors of Australian material now looking for only the harder to get items. (Did you know that almost half the members now have the green 5/- bridge in their collections)? It is also due to members deciding on a cut-off date for their collections and ceasing to collect later issues.

For those who are continuing with the latest Australian issues, we have been fortunate enough to find a source in Queensland prepared to supply some of them. Naturally the source can not supply all issues because even they are finding them hard to come by. For the present we will continue with this arrangement. It is worth noting that the decision to increase the postage rate to \$1 is yet to be tested with collectors.

The increase is accompanied by advertising blurbs suggesting the non priority post will take 4 to 6 business days to deliver. We can only hope that this true as it will improve on the current two week turn-around from say Sydney.

2015 saw two very good auctions where the focus was on good Australian material. In December our auction included almost a complete set of King George heads. This was in response to the reaction to our birthday auction where the “heads” featured heavily and the majority sold for very low prices.

Both auctions saw an initial clearance rate of 80% and this rose to 87% for the birthday auction following the post auction sales.

### The parties

As per usual members excelled themselves in providing a mountain of goodies for both parties. For the Christmas party the organising group even had doggy bags for the leftover food. Very well done.

Everyone had more than sufficient with their choices ranging from hot pies, meat balls, rolls, chicken, frankfurts, sushi, fresh salads, cheeses, dips, devils, for starters. Then there were cakes (of every description possible) and sweets, nuts and chocolates, drinks, fresh fruit. I guess we are lucky to have such wonderful cooks in our club. Well done everyone.

### Next years programme

Most members have a printed copy of the programme for 2016. If you still require one please ask. Of interest is the February meeting as it sets the tone for the next 8 months. We are going to Focus on the Pacific. John, our vice president, will oversight this project. The end result is for members to develop an eight page display. At regular intervals from February there will be sessions on planning, collecting, composition, exchanging, assembly and presentation of your displays. The club has been able to secure a wide range of goodies at very competitive prices to help you. Not too much Palau at this stage but we are working on it.

There are a few rules but there is also a substantial prize on offer.

### Member presentations.

Throughout the year eight members will give presentations. Some are for members to help us broaden our knowledge of our collecting possibilities - such as Asia with noodles and state stamps. Some are informative with practical sessions (such as watermark detection). Of interest, on this night, the club will have some small packets of kangaroo stamps up to the 2/- denomination that members can buy. Your goodies will then be available for your practical work as you attempt to work out the watermarks. These stamps come from a deceased estate and were made available to our club at a very reasonable price. They have not been sorted or looked over by anyone that we know of.

### Footnotes

In the past year some of juniors have moved away from the area to for employment and academic reasons. It was pleasing to see some of them when they returned home for the Christmas season. Congratulations to all who have passed their exams and are now making the transition to adult life. No longer do they rely on parents and grans to bring them to meetings as they now drive, have their own money and dare I say it more interests.

We also have some new members. Welcome to Susie (fungi and flower collector) and Ross (Australia and immediate areas).

### Recommencing

Remember circuit books and shop activities are conducted at all meetings. Sorry no photos this time as our photographer Ronis was recovering from her hospitalisation (in Sydney). She is now on the mend.

Have as safe and enjoyable break. Club activities resume on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016.