

# CAMPBELLTOWN PHILATELIC NEWS

January, 2014

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www.philas.org.au/campbelltown

Next meeting 12th February

Vladimir Ilych Lenin display by Wyn Morehouse

## Passing of Maurice Williams

**It is with sincere regret that we advise of the passing of our philatelic friend, Maurice Williams. A former managing director of Australia Post, & an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Philatelic Federation.**

**Maurie displayed "Qantas The Spirit Of Australia" at our club in April, 2010 and later in June, 2011 showed us "Manley Stamp Designer".**

**A complete gentleman, he was so generous with his time in coming all the way to Campbelltown, twice.**

**His other displays we didn't get to see were "Sydney & the Bush", and "Symbol of Sydney - the Sydney Harbour Bridge".**

**Vale Maurice.**

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## £30 'job lot' contained £250,000 Constable

A painting bought as part of a £30 "job lot" at auction more than a decade ago has turned out to be a £250,000 original by the revered 19th century British artist John Constable.

Rob Darvell, of South Woodford in east London, was given the good news by experts. The graphic designer, 45, had been handed the postcard-sized painting by his father during a clear-out of the family home last year. "It's a Constable and it's never been seen properly before, so it's part of history, will cause a stir and become a celebrity item". His father had bought the painting at an auction in Canterbury some 13 years ago – and had since been advised to get rid of it by Mr Darvell's stepmother.

"It was in a cardboard box with other bits and pieces no-one else seemed to want, sold at the end of the auction as a job lot. Dad viewed the box before it came up for sale and spotted a faint signature, J Constable, on the back of the frame".

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## Return to sender

Iraqi terrorist Khay Rahnajet didn't pay enough postage on a letter bomb. It came back with 'Return to Sender' stamped on it.

Forgetting it was the bomb; he opened it and was blown to bits.

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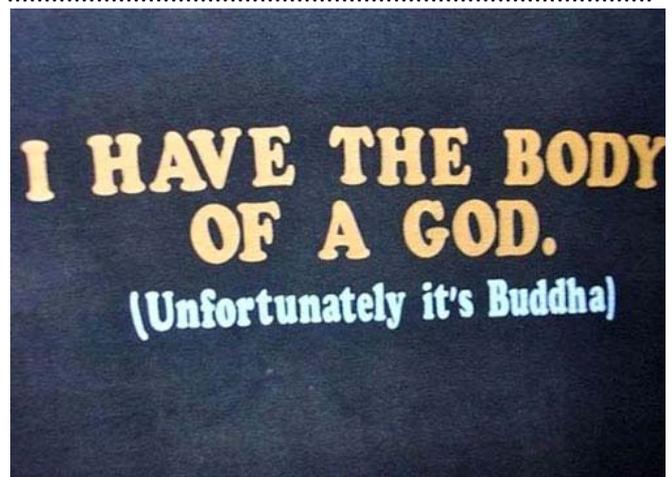
## Printing Aussie personalised stamps live.

McKellar Renown Press scored a 'world first' by putting visitors' faces on stamps at the Melbourne World Stamp Expo. Some stamps featured three different printing processes – offset, letterpress and digital – all together on the one sheet. The live printing was done on a Fuji Xerox Colour 1000, with the offset and letterpress components of the sheets produced in-house beforehand, he said.

Some of the stamps were personalised with visitors' photos and then used on letters. McKellar is also produced personalised postcards and stamp booklets, Previous personalised images were only printed on the selvage.

Look out for examples to add to your collections.

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## Aussie Stamps with year imprinted

Have you noticed that ever since 1989 Australian stamps show the year issued in microprint on the face.

British commemorative stamps show the year in the phosphor band which you can read by using a UV light. 2nd class, 2013 Christmas stamps have 2013 included in non-phosphor at the foot of the stamps.

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### Australia Post sell-off ?

A former ACCC commissioner Stephen King came out strongly in favour of a sale of Australia Post on Monday, saying the national broadband network would make the old-fashioned letter redundant.

"It should certainly be looked at, and my own view is it probably should be privatised," Professor King said. "The government is building and will own a national broadband network that will link rural and regional Australia to urban Australia with universal service and a uniform price replicating exactly the old standard letter obligations of Australia Post," he said. "Once that's done, why on earth does Australia Post have to have universal service?" "The first thing the government will need to get right is Australia Post's service obligations and what a sale would mean for the organisation's 32,000 employees," he said.

Australia Post is obliged to provide a letter service to all Australians at a uniform rate under the Australia Post Corporation Act. It also needs to be equally accessible to all Australians regardless of where they live.

The Royal Mail reported a profit of \$440 million in 2013, compared with Australia Post's \$312 million.

If it were to be valued in a similar measure to the Royal Mail, Australia Post would be worth about \$2.3 billion before floating.

### Freightways bolsters mail delivery

NZX-listed express package and information management company Freightways is continuing to invest in snail mail despite it being a declining market.

Managing director Dean Bracewell said while the company was facing challenges as more people moved to email, there were still opportunities in physical mail delivery.

The centralisation of NZ Post's sorting centres was expected to slow down its delivery services, Bracewell said.

In response, Freightways had invested in more posties in New Zealand centres to secure customers looking for faster delivery.

The company could still participate in physical mail delivery, he said. "There's growth to support that."

Its express package and business mail division, which accounts for 75 per cent of its earnings, reported a 6 per cent rise in operating revenue to \$308m, from \$292m last year. Bracewell said the company's letters business, DX Mail, had declined and traditional retail volumes also fell.

But digital and physical mail delivery systems unit DataPrint, acquired in July last year, had performed well. Freightways' information management division was again the standout performer.

### Carbon Monoxide monitors mandatory in Ontario

The (Ontario) provincial government has introduced legislation that makes the installation in every home mandatory. Fire department officials will enforce the regulations, and penalties will be similar to those without smoke alarms - \$235 a ticket.

About 12 people a year die from carbon monoxide poisoning in Ontario.

Amazon.com is introducing drones for ultra fast delivery of books from their bulk warehouses. Will eBay be next for delivery of stamps to the successful bidders ?



### Postage increase ?

Australia Post says it needs to increase the price of stamps by at least 10 cents next year if it is to reduce the size of its losses.

The postal service says as letter volumes decline worldwide, it is no longer financially sustainable to continue holding prices below inflationary levels.

In a submission to a Senate Committee, Australia Post says inflation has risen by 70 per cent during the past 20 years while postage stamps have only increased by about 30 per cent.

It says its letter business has lost more than \$400 million over the past three years, and increasing stamp prices would simply reduce the size of the loss. Australia Post has suggested a 10 cent increase in the price of stamps, which if accepted would bring the price of a stamp to 70 cents.

However, the company says it has not made a formal request for an increase in the stamp price. Australia Post has also suggested taking on more government services and changes to its legislation to help make the business more profitable.

### Graf Zeppelin 1933



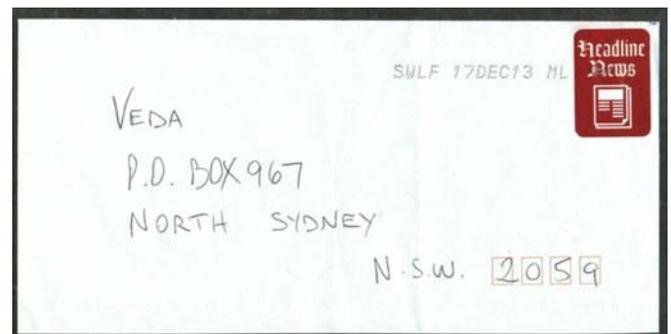
It seems that countries with even the slightest tie to the German airships, produced stamps on that topic. Here is the set from Tripolitania (now Libya).

Can anyone supply a full list of all the countries? Such a collection would be extremely valuable, & form a superb theme. Any takers?

### World On Line Philatelic Agency (WOPA)

A single website handles stamp sales *at face price* for a number of countries. This group includes new stamps for : Guernsey, Isle of Man, Malta, Denmark, Norway, Aland, Azores, Estonia, Faroes, Gibraltar, Greenland, Iceland, Israel, Luxembourg, Madiera, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and United Nations. This is a cost effective way of thematic collectors obtaining only the set of stamps they want from a variety of countries on their collecting topic. You can click on "currency" to see what a stamp would cost across a variety of different currencies.

### Label instead of postage Stamp



This letter went through the post without query, even though the sender used a "sticker" instead purchasing & using a postage stamp. The sender even had the audacity to include his name & home address on the reverse in case it was returned.

### Luxemburg Postes New L (letter) Stamp

Joining the trend of other postal authorities, the new "L" stamp will be permanently valid for posting a 50g local destination letter.

Whether the long term cost can be borne by the post offices who had previously increased the postage price to cover increased costs, is to be seen. Under

### United States celebrates holiday with stamp issue.

The U.S. Postal Service continues its tradition of celebrating Kwanzaa. This annual non-religious holiday, which takes place over seven days from December 26 to January 1, brings family community, and culture together for many African Americans. The first Kwanzaa commemorative stamp was issued in 1997. New designs were also issued in 2004, 2009, and 2011.

US Post also issues stamps for Jewish "Hanukkah". Hanukkah – also known as the Festival of Lights and Feast of Dedication – begins at sunset on Nov. 27 and continues through evening on Dec. 5.



Nine lighted white beeswax candles top each of the branches. "Hanukkah" (the Hebrew word for "dedication") is spelled out across the top of the stamp in yellow letters.

### Advertising in US stamp booklets.

There isn't any! That is, there isn't any commercial advertising designed to sell a product. And there never was. Not even commercial advertising designated as being tasteful or an announcement "sponsored by" any non-government organization. The United States has never allowed stamp booklets to convey messages other than those of the Post Office or the Department of the Treasury. Commercial advertising has never appeared on the covers or interleaves of a United States stamp booklet. In November 1980, Representative Barry Goldwater, Jr. of California introduced HR 8367 which would allow private companies to issue stamps with their logos. It was commonly known as the Free Enterprise Postage Stamp Act. The bill provided for an advisory board that would review corporate bids and recommend those that would be to the economic advantage of the Postal Service. The minimum cost was to be \$10,000 for 50,000 stamps. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service but was never enacted.

this new system stamps are never out of date to use for postage.



**Malta 150th anniversary of the Red Cross**

The Red Cross was founded in 1859 by Henry Dunant, a Swiss businessman who witnessed the horrors of the battle of Solferino. Around 40,000 men of the armies of imperial Austria & the Franco Sardinian alliance lay, dead or wounded.

Henry joined forces with five other men in Geneva to set up the International Committee for relief to the wounded, which was later to become the International Committee of the Red Cross. Its emblem, a red cross on a white background is the inverse of the Swiss Flag. Dunant went from riches to rags in his work, but was selected as a joint recipient of the first Nobel Prize for Peace.



**Vatican Post commemorates World Leprosy Day**

Sixty years ago (1954) the first World Leprosy day was celebrated. The idea came from Raoul Follereau, a French journalist and writer who worked tirelessly in favour of people with Leprosy as a ambassador of "the poor".

This new stamp recalls his efforts , together with his inseparable wife, Madeline, in his lifelong dedication to eliminating leprosy from the face of the earth. Follereau reawakened international public opinion

on the inhuman conditions of the millions of people suffering from Hansen's disease, who were still being exiled to leper colonies despite the fact that effective, low cost cures were available for the disease.

He was truly a "vagabond for charity", continually visiting leper colonies to which people were confined, embracing those with the disease to show that it was not as contagious as people thought, & could be defeated. Raoul came up with a remarkable initiative calling for the USA & USSR superpowers to give up two atomic bombers to cover the cost of eliminating the disease.

Thanks to Follereau's efforts the last century saw some of the greatest successes in the fight against the disease which was considered worse than the plague. Raoul died, but his heritage lives on in various foundations inspired by him. The battle continues today as there are still 200,000 new cases throughout the world each year.

As Follereau said "*The treasure I leave you is the good that I have not done, that I would have liked to do, and which you will have to do after me*".

**"Murray's Post"**

A triangular hand-stamp was used in the first penny post, established by William Dockwra and Robert Murray, undertakers, in London in 1680, pre-dating the Penny Black by 160 years. For an up-front fee of 1d, (equivalent to roughly 55p today) the system guaranteed delivery of a letter anywhere in London and its immediate environs within four hours.

Several hundred receiving houses were established where a messenger would call hourly to take all letters received to the closest of the seven sorting offices where they were stamped (at least from December 1680 onwards) and sorted for onward delivery. The sender, recipient and time of posting all letters was recorded in registers, and compensation paid for failure to deliver. It was a remarkably efficient system, which transformed communication in London, and played its part in the extraordinary commercial growth of London in the late 17th Century.

It was also deeply entwined in the politics of the day. This was the time of the Exclusion Crisis and the Popish Plot, when opposition Whig politicians were engaged in a massive campaign to sway public opinion – especially in London – against the court and the Duke of York, through anti-catholic propaganda. The penny post provided an excellent method of disseminating propaganda and it was also independent of the Royal Mail which was controlled by the Duke of York.