

CAMPBELLTOWN PHILATELIC NEWS

July , 2014

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www.philas.org.au/campbelltown

July Display NZ Alternative Post by Ed Burnard

Next: 13th August "Early Great Britain by John Hoppitt

New Starting Time

Because of late finishing times of meetings this year, it has been decided that the "business" section will be brought forward 15 minutes to 7.30pm.

The meeting hall is always open before 7pm, leaving members at least 30 minutes (longer for the "early birds ") to socialise & peruse the club circuit books for purchases before the 7.30 "commencement".

We introduce the speaker & the display, have that presentation and enjoy a tea or coffee with biscuits. Time is allowed to view the auction items which are then gathered up & the auction held.

Payments & winning lot distribution are the final act prior to packing up. We expect to conclude after 9pm even with this earlier start.

Australia Post boss floats user-pays mail delivery

Australia Post chairman John Stanhope said a user-pays postal system was a viable option after the company's letter operations suffered a \$218 million loss last year because the public had sent fewer letters than ever.

The user-pays model means residents would pay an annual bill in addition to the stamp price, which increased from 60¢ to 70¢ in March.

"If you want it fast, you pay for it," Mr Stanhope said.

"You want it more related to the cost base, so if you are happy enough for your letter to be delivered less frequently then you pay less, if you want it more frequent you pay more, if you want it express you pay more, so you pay for the level of service," he told Fairfax Media following a Trans-Tasman lunch in Melbourne on Tuesday.

Letter volumes have fallen by more than 25 per cent from their peak in 2008, from 4.6 billion five years ago to 3.6 billion last year, and could disappear completely

within the next decade, putting the role of the iconic mail man in jeopardy.

"The New Zealand government has already got on the front foot compared to us and tested less frequent delivery of letters [three days a week] and apparently the response is, 'that's OK'," Mr Stanhope said. "Less frequency seems to be where mail services around the world are headed."

Australia Post is finalising its corporate plan to government which is required to be submitted in July and needed "to open up that conversation" with government to make the necessary changes, Mr Stanhope said.

There was also was no reason "not to" adopt a recommendation by the government's commission of audit to privatise the \$4 billion Australia Post, their chairman said.

"It doesn't need to be [government-owned], it's a bit strange being government-owned if we were just a parcel business but we are not [just a parcel business] today."

Former boss of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Graeme Samuel repeated his view at the same lunch that the service should be sold by the federal government, joining other powerful supporters including former chairman David Mortimer and the Business Council of Australia.

"Of course it should be privatised and of course it will be subject to the mother of all scare campaigns," Mr Samuel recently told Fairfax. "We will hear about how it will remove services from the bush but if people look at the arguments rationally, they just don't stack up."

Mr Stanhope added that the public perception that an increase in parcel volumes would offset the post's losses was misguided.

"People think that parcels will grow and offset our losses, well it won't," he said.

Defamation for eBay feedback.

Beware of the words you use, if leaving negative feedback for an unsatisfactory eBay purchase. Numerous legal actions have been commenced - and some prosecuted through to a guilty verdict - even though the buyer had grounds to be dissatisfied. Clocks, mobile phones, stamps, all items may not be as expected. All defences result in costly legal accounts, are time consuming, and may well cause health issues through worry. By all means make a negative feedback response for misdescription, or faulty item, but avoid slanderous statements or unwarranted comment - particularly if you write impolite words.

Early Letter Datestamps

Australia's first "postmaster" was appointed on 25th April, 1809, however it wasn't until 1816 that an undated "office of origin" postmarker was introduced on out-going mail.



Following that postmarker, there were dozens of differing date stamps (mostly circular) engraved for use by the numerous NSW post offices created for the growing colony. The office, once known as "Bong Bong" was renamed "Berrima", as geographic name changes were common over the century.

Oval shaped date-stamps were initially supplied to some post offices from 1939, and with the introduction of adhesive postal stamps they were "bashed" by an obliterator whose chief purpose was (in the words of the NSW Colonial Secretary) "was to destroy the postage stamp that it cannot possibly be used a second time". Later (1857) a superior replacement obliterator was used to "perforate" the surface of the stamp so that, even if cleaned of ink, would make previous use obvious. At the same time oval date stamps were intended to be struck on the back of the letter to indicate the date of posting.



Ovals were permanently replaced by the round design. The "screw-in" plugs of town, month day & date were superseded by the use of revolving "date wheels" in 1904, a system copied from Brisbane, Queensland. It was still possible to re-assemble the wheels in the



incorrect order. *Extracts from "A history of Post Office Date-Stamps" by R Tobin. - from Philas Library.....*



These days you must be careful which stamps you soak off paper, and the methods you use. These GB stamps are now ruined.

Punchbowl Stamp & Coin Fair

Saturday 26th July 2014

A Winter Day With Stamps

Saturday 26th July, 2014 from 10am
Dougherty Centre, 7 Victor St, **Chatswood**
This day is hosted by the Northern Suburbs Philatelic Society & we encourage you all to attend.

Stamp Videos "On Line"

Members with email have received advice of three superb videos about stamps. Two are entitled "How Much Are My Stamps Worth?" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sr0bQU2jeo4> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvVApDs0j7U> with the third one called "Spotting contrived stamp collections" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5v-sOs9arQ>. They are all commended to each & every stamp collector.

Philas Auction No. 118.

The next auction commences at 12.30pm, Saturday 12th July on 1st floor, 17 Brisbane St, Sydney. Viewing of lots is on Thursday & Friday (10th/11th) from 9.30am to 5pm + Thursday to 7pm. Also viewing on Sat 12th from 8.30am to 11.30am.

Recharge your batteries.

Your phone takes too long to charge ? Your electric bike or car takes too long to charge ? And the batteries in the vehicle weigh a lot too ? Researchers at the University of California have created a lithium-ion battery anode that could **charge your phone in 10 minutes**, though a car would take longer... They replaced the current graphite anodes with a three-dimensional, silicon-decorated, cone-shaped carbon-nano tube cluster. Tests showed that batteries using these anodes had a much higher rate of charge and discharge than those using conventional anodes.



The team believe the new anodes make better contact and also allow electrolytes to flow more easily into the electrode, leading to better charging and thermal transfer. Everybody likes faster charging.

Redfern Post Office on sale.



An auction is being held for the sale with estimates around \$2 million.

The former post office was built in 1882. The land was purchased at £15 per foot. Following the Postmaster General's decision, the Colonial Architect's Office was authorised to proceed with the drawing of plans for the new office at an estimated cost of £3000. The new post office included a telegraph office, parlour, drawing room, three bedrooms, kitchen, servant's room, bathroom, scullery, washhouse, fuel shed and two stall stables. In 1880, £3000 was placed on the Parliamentary Estimates for the erection of the Redfern office.

On 16 April 1904 a new telephone exchange room was added at a total cost of £203. A separate Telephone Exchange building was constructed next door to the Post Office on Redfern Street in c1915, which echoes the architectural style of the Post Office. A licenced post office now operates at 219 Cleveland St, Redfern.

Confirming the end of Club Overprints

The committee hereby verifies the decision to cease overprinting sheetlets or booklets, due to the lack of sales. Should the philatelic community regain interest in collecting Australian sheetlets and booklets with club overprints in the future, this may be reversed.

New Club Members

At the June meeting, four visitors from the Southern Highlands signed up as club members, Graham Prider, Ken Williams, Ian Mackey, and Bruce Moore. They were introduced by Stuart Kingdon and we understand they have also joined the Australian Commonwealth Collector's club of New South Wales. We welcome them, & hope to offer them friendship and the opportunity to obtain a diverse range of stamps to suit their collecting needs.

50 Club auction lots for the July meeting include the following .All lots start at \$1.00

- Lot 10. GB Wildings set MUH. ½d to 1/6d.
- Lot 28. Czechoslovakia 1960 Olympics M& U.
- Lot 38 New Guinea 1939 Airmail low values. Used.
- Lot 39. NZ 1996 3 MUH framas & 1978 Agriculture.
- Lot 31 GB used lot incl. 1950's postage due to 1/- KG6 2/6 to 10/- and 2/6d seahorse.



- Lot 32. Ten Vic & WA states, mostly used (2 MUH) .



- Lot 33. Norfolk (18 used pre-decimal) incl. both copies of "The Bloody Bridge".



- Lot 41. Australia KGV heads to 1/4d.

- Lot 46. GB MUH Self Adhesive Christmas Machins with Bible readings attached (2).



There will also be lots of member's items for auction on 9th July as well.

Please note:- As well as financial Club Postal Members bidding, it will be Floor bidders only - no other bids will be considered, so be sure to attend.

New Italian Stamp



Will Vegemite be on a new 2015 Australian stamp, to celebrate 90 years of sales ? What flavour will the gum be ?