

CAMPBELLTOWN PHILATELIC NEWS

August, 2014

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www.philas.org.au/campbelltown

August Display Early Great Britain by John Hoppitt

10th September is our Annual General Meeting & Auction

Punchbowl Stamp & Coin Fair

The schedule of upcoming fair days are :-

Saturday 23rd August, 2014

Saturday 27th September, 2014

44 Rossmore Avenue, Punchbowl

from 10am to 3pm.

Members Eddie, Phil, Richard & Mike will be there.

You can contact them beforehand to ensure they bring specific items you require.

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Annual General Meeting

Club members are encouraged to nominate for the new committee to be elected in September.

It is likely that the best fresh ideas would come from members who are new to the committee.

As part of the **monster auction** to be held in conjunction with the September meeting, the club will offer 150 auction items with some reserves commencing at \$1.00. This is in addition to members items which will also be available. To display all these, we will be configuring every table, with extra ones being especially brought to the meeting.

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Our Stamp Fair is approaching

The 2nd November is the date for the **Fisher's Ghost Stamp Fair**. We request members to commence placing their spare & duplicate stamps on Circuit Book pages. Obtain these pages from our Circuit Secretary, Tony Bailey.

Financial members may also prepare items for the two Auctions being held that day. Minimum reserve price to be \$5.00. If past years are any guide there will be plenty of eager bidders.

Do you have any publicity suggestions ?

We want to reach a larger audience because this district has many new residents who may not know about the fair

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Australia Post Loses Money ?

Letters bleed money? I'm sorry? Did I miss something?

Do we just stand by and watch as Australia Post, this ridiculous divine power of a "wholly owned government corporation", tells us the daily mail delivery might die?

Are we supposed to agree that this cornerstone of civilisation is simply dispensable?

It's not about technology, or population, or changing times. It's about government, and what that means as an idea. It's about what we pay government to do. First principle: government is not business. Indeed, government is the direct inverse of business, yet this basic axiom seems to elude it. Business makes money from selling goods and services; government spends money to provide them.

That's not so hard to grasp, is it?

We're told delivering letters is too hard. Letters "bleed money" was the memorable wording from Australia Post CEO Ahmed Fahour, on his fat \$4.8 million per year.

On current trends, says Fahour, Australia Post will lose \$7.1 billion in eight years. Anyone else would have their pay docked, or worse. Mr Fahour blames government; specifically the requirement to deliver the daily mail.

It will retain parcel delivery of course. Indeed, parcel delivery, made profitable by online shopping, will extend to Saturdays.

But the non-profit parts must go. Government, says Australia Post, must allow reduction of mail deliveries to three days, losing 900 jobs, for starters. Bye-bye, postie.

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Forged Stamps



Some years ago there was a flood of Nigerian stamps forged, and from time to time reports come from other countries - UK, Canada, USA, etc that someone has been mass producing fake stamps for profit. Now, thanks to the scanner & printer, a few have been churning out Australian "reproductions" to avoid the cost of purchasing stamps. The above scan shows a fake which was scanned directly onto an envelope & posted. Other stamps have been found and all lack genuine perforations or diecuts .

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 One for our golfing members



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Catalogues in Club Library

As a large portion of our members collect Australian stamps, we hold a number of those catalogues.
 Vol 1 Colour catalogue
 Vol 2 Colour catalogue
 Vol 3 Colour catalogue
 2004 Renniks (9th edition)
 Aust & Territories Booklets Vol 1. 1904 - 1972
 Aust & Territories Booklets Vol 2. 1973 - 2003
 Seven Seas 28th Edition (1999).
 Kangaroos & early Federal period (1901 -1912
 SG. Cwth of Aust. 2012 (7th edition).
 Commonwealth Specialist Cat

Commonwealth Specialist Cat (2nd copy)
 Commonwealth Specialist Cat (3rd copy)
 Stamp variations 1996 - 2005
 CD. 2006 Australian Booklets
 CD. 2007 Australian booklets
 Kangaroos. Commonwealth Specialist 1913 - 2013.
 Pictormarks Vol 1. 1879 - 1989
 Pictormarks Vol 2. 1990 - 2012
 Another popular collecting country is GB.
 These are our British catalogues:-
 SG. C/wealth & British empire 1940-1952.
 SG. Vol 1. Queen Victoria
 SG. Vol 2. King Edward 7 - George 6
 SG. Vol 3. QE2 Pre-Decimal
 SG. Vol 4. QE2 Decimal
 SG. Vol.5. QE2 Later Decimal
 SG. 2013. Collect British Stamps
 Our librarian is purchasing a new British Empire volume 1940- 1972 in order that you can see the current SG prices for new & used stamps. Whilst other countries have not as many books, each country is covered in our 2012, 5 volume colour Stamps of the World by Stanley Gibbons. We have three specialised volumes for Germany - two of which are in the english language, but the Michel 2006 edition is all in german.

All may be borrowed for a month at a time, with extension allowed if no one else requires that volume.

2015 Sydney Stamp Expo

A full national stamp exhibition is to be held at the Johnny Warren Indoor Sports Stadium, Hurstville on Thursday 16th April to Sunday 19th April.

The theme will be the ANZAC Centenary, with special prizes for the best military related exhibits. Plan is for 40 local, interstate & international stamp & coin dealers to attend (including Australia Post). Local Sydney volunteers will control the event.

Ukraine resident collector seeking stamps

Fifteen year old Alexandr Machacha requests used stamps and envelopes from our club members. His address is; Do vimogy Kaniv - 3 Cherkasskaya 19003 UKRANE

If you have used duplicates to spare please send them as a gesture of good will & "solidarity" where any positive act would be welcome at this time of conflict.

Club Welfare Officer

Brian Roberts has been carrying out the duties without official recognition, and the committee voted to formally appoint him to the role.

Implant cures long-sightedness

Known as symfony, the “breakthrough” invention can restore near perfect vision within days of the plastic lens being inserted into a patient’s eye. And the procedure takes just minutes to perform.

The new lenses should last a lifetime and unlike the currently available lenses that are used to treat cataracts, the symfony lens is multifocal thereby eradicating the need for reading glasses in nine out of 10 cases.

The treatment is now available in the UK but at present costs more than \$7000 per eye to perform.

Breadfruit wonder fruit



Breadfruit trees require little care and thrive in the tropics.

The large and exotic breadfruit is being touted as a wonder food.

The fruit has lumpy green flesh and a potato-like texture so that it can be served as part of a main meal or turned into sweets. It is widely eaten throughout the Pacific Islands and more breadfruit are produced there per hectare than rice, wheat and corn,

Just one breadfruit, which weighs around 3kgs, provides the carbohydrate portion of a meal for a family of five.

The fruit can be ground into flour and used in sweet and savoury dishes, including pancakes and crisps. It is rich in vitamins and minerals, as well as being a high source of gluten-free protein and carbohydrate. The protein in the fruit has a higher proportion of amino acids than soy.

Panama v Nicaraguan Canal

A postage stamp sent to US senators changed the US vote from Nicaraguan Canal to the decision to build the canal through Panama.

Back in 1849 Nicaragua gave the right to the US for 12 years to build a canal across Nicaragua, but this wasn't commenced.

In 1872 more US surveys were conducted, but a French syndicate under Ferdinand de Lesseps (of Suez canal fame) commenced a canal in Panama, by persuading speculators and ordinary citizens to invest in the scheme (ultimately to the level of almost \$400 million), but abandoned it in 1889.

The discovery of gold in California in 1848 and the rush of would-be miners stimulated U.S. interest in creating a canal between the oceans. In 1887, a U.S. regiment went to survey canal possibilities in Nicaragua. In 1889, the Maritime Canal Company was asked to begin creating a canal in the area, and it chose Nicaragua.

Congress created a Canal Commission to look into possible construction, and Nicaragua was also chosen as the location both times, however a Frenchman, Philippe Bunau-Varilla wanted to sell the French rights in Panama to the US for US\$40 million.



Using scare tactics. the day before the senate debate he wrote to Congress advising that Nicaragua was prone to volcanos & earthquakes, he had purchased stamps from Washington dealers showing the mount Momotombo in magnificent eruption. One of each stamp was included in each letter, & the US voted to dig the Panama Canal.

Astoundingly, in June 2013, President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua sent congress a proposal for a \$40 billion canal project to be built by a China-based consortium. If it goes ahead it will be the largest construction in the history of humanity. the canal project consists of six sub-projects, including the channel itself, construction of two deep-water ports, a free-trade

area, tourism projects in San Lorenzo and an airport in the city of Rivas.

US Free trade Agreement



Need members to help at Fisher's Ghost Fair

We now need you to put your name down to assist in the running of our annual stamp fair.

With the termination of our overprinting sheetlets and booklets, the fair is our principal source of club income.

There is no heavy lifting, but we need people to man our club tables, greet people arriving, assist with the two auctions, assist in the canteen/kitchen, etc.

Please add your name for 2nd November - even 1/2 a day will help share the load.

Gordon Howard will collate the names.

Would you join club display in October ?

Brian Roberts has been asked by Philas for three club members to provide non-competitive displays in October. If you wish to join the team, or to obtain more information refer to Brian.

A chance to show items which you have assembled & which you derive great pleasure.

Christmas Charity Fund Raiser

On 10th December our club will be supporting the Mary Brooksbank Special School, Rosemeadow, by auctioning items in our annual Christmas Party and fundraiser.

May I request that you commence putting aside some items in good condition that you will donate.

This is a project of which we may take great comfort that we can assist children less fortunate than most.

Perforations image on a stamp



This Mexican stamp was issued to commemorate the introduction of stamp perforations.

Consider having to lining up at a Post Office counter waiting for a clerk to cut a stamp or two out of a sheet of stamps with a pair of scissors. Imagine the extended queue behind you.

Perforation technology has been a boom down the years until the introduction of the die cut replacement held by the self-adhesive backing we now have. (Much to collectors regret).

Sending letters overseas.

A 50 gram letter , a postcard, or a "greeting card " all incur the same cost to post overseas. Destinationsw are divided into three areas with cost increasing the further the distance.

New Zealand is cheapest at \$1.75, followed by "Asia Pacific" @ \$1.85 and the "Rest of the World" comes in at \$2.60.

Weight exceeding 50 gms but not exceeding 250gms cost \$4.50, \$4.65 & \$6.45 for the zones.

Heavy objects up to 500gms increase to \$9.75, \$11.15 and \$15.50.

The last six international mail stamps issued have all been of \$2.60 value, with the April, 2013 "Bush Babies" set of five international stamps covering other weights.

