

**Bulletin**

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Website: [www.brightonps.org.au](http://www.brightonps.org.au)

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## Dear Philatelic Friends

Welcome to another exciting year of Philately with Brighton P.S. It is my pleasure to lead your Committee in providing all the meetings and services which you are used to. I will use this letter to tell you about some of the special things we have in store and stir you into wider interests.

I strongly urge all of you to come to our Education and Display Meeting on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. We will start the year with a *Bang!* At 7.15pm the well-known Andrew Ballis will give an illustrated talk on Kangaroos. “*I don’t collect them, I hear some of you say*”. Neither do I, but they are the first stamps issued by Australia, colourful with many varieties, so I am looking forward to his talk. At 8.15 pm John Young will display his ‘Trans Pacific Airmails’, covers crossing the wide Pacific in the days when flying was a novelty. As you know covers give much more information than mere used stamps. There will also be untouched Exchange Sheets provided by Jim Marinis.

Further away, giving you ample time to prepare your entry, our annual *One Frame Competition* will be held on Easter Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. We had a record number of entries for our Members’ competitions last year. All those Members learnt a lot from sharing their carefully constructed displays and getting helpful comments and praise from people looking at them. You can display up to 15 sheets of A4 sized pages. Less is fine.

*Do you wish to develop yourself from a stamp collector into a philatelist?* You can follow any part of this progression, briefly stated:

- Junior stamp collector –collects everything
- Adult collector- assembles every stamp of a chosen country/s
- Traditional philatelist – collects & learns the whole process from proofs to varieties
- Cover collector – adds selected covers to their collection, with their postal story
- Areas of Focus – Aero philately, Antarctic stamps, themes such as trains, birds

- Open philately – Adds ephemera: bank notes, badges, cards, etc.
- Display or Exhibit – show your material to a widening audience.

*A couple of reminders:*

1. We need more Members who wish to receive their Bulletins and Auction Catalogues *only by email*, so please send me an email to [bpsian99@gmail.com](mailto:bpsian99@gmail.com). *Ignore if you have already done this.* This saves the Club a lot of postage, but only if you do *not* need hard copies (see the note on page 5).
2. Put in your new Diary (or wherever you store notices) the date *Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>* to attend our Gala Anniversary Exhibition – it will be a cracker!

Your Committee is always willing to consider new ideas: how we can improve Brighton Philatelic Society for YOU. But you need to communicate. Talk to David Shutler and me, or any other Committee Member at any meeting or send a request via the Bri Phil Website.

That's enough from me! Never was very good at marketing, prefer messing around with my stamps!

I wish you a successful 2020 year in all your philatelic, and other, endeavours.

Ian Sadler - *President*

**Upcoming Displays.** (*N.B. Display meetings now start at 8.15 to allow more time for the Education meeting*)

**Trans Pacific Airmails, 1935-45 by John Young, February 11<sup>th</sup>**

The President of the Australian Philatelic Society will show his rare collection of commercial airmail covers to and from North and South America, mainly by the Pacific Clipper. In this war-time era, sometimes airmail from the Middle East and Europe had to go via the Pacific.

**Netherlands Indies, New Guinea and Cinderellas by the Ballarat Philatelic Society, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Several members of the Ballarat Philatelic Society will come to show us:

- Essays of Australian stamps using Cinderellas
- Covers produced by the Ballarat PS
- Netherlands Indies covers and postcards
- New Guinea and Tonga

**Club One Frame Competition by YOU, April 14<sup>th</sup> (Easter Tuesday)**

All Members are cordially invited to bring up to 15 A4 sized sheets of stamps, covers, etc to show Members their collection and compete for two prizes. Preferably sheets should be enclosed in plastic protectors to safeguard the contents. Most Committee members can help with advice on request. See details on Page 4.

## Education for Collectors and Philatelists

*Bring your own material and queries. We will endeavour to answer your questions in all these sessions.*

### 7.15 pm Second Tuesdays.

**February 11<sup>th</sup> ‘Collect Kangaroo Varieties.’** Presented by Andrew Ballis. As a long-established stamp dealer, Andrew will explain the specifics of Australian Kangaroo stamps including shades, perforations and watermarks. Bring your own Kangaroos to compare or just come to learn about Australia’s first commonwealth stamps.

**March 10<sup>th</sup> ‘How to Display Stamps and Covers’.** Presented by Ian Sadler. Get your stamps out and show them to fellow Members in April. Ian will explain step-by-step how to transform your album pages into an interesting display e.g. for the Club competition in April. These are two fascinating ways in which to extend your collection.

### Third Tuesday, Day Meeting, 12 noon

On most 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, there will be an **Education** meeting immediately after the Auction finishes, in the Main Room. This is aimed especially to cater for members who cannot get out in the evening.

**February 18<sup>th</sup> ‘Collecting Kangaroo Varieties’** Ian will present similar material to that covered by Andrew at the meeting above. Bernie Weiss will help him.

**March 10<sup>th</sup> ‘How to Display Stamps and Covers’.** Ian will re-present his introduction to displaying part of your collection. This enables you to receive ideas and recognition for your philatelic material.

Ian Sadler- *Education Coordinator and President*

## New Members

Please extend a friendly welcome to the following new members:

Stewart Pearmain – Geelong

Richard Hicks – Blackburn South

Barry Bristowe – Wantirna South

## Albums closed

Nena Brice – a member since 1994



## **Annual BPS Competition**

The competition for the Brighton Philatelic Society (BPS) Cup will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We encourage all members to take part.

### **Brighton Philatelic Society Cup rules:**

1. All exhibitors must be financial members of BPS.
2. Entries will be accepted by the Secretary, or Convenor, from 7pm at the meeting. Alternatively, arrangements may be made for their prior delivery to the President or Secretary
3. Each entry will comprise 15 sheets, including a title page.
4. Each sheet shall be within the maximum measurements of 250mm x 290mm.
5. The exhibitor's name must not appear on the front of any sheet, but must be endorsed on the back of each.
6. Each entry must be the property of the exhibitor. All mounting, arrangement and annotation must be the exhibitor's personal work.
7. If there is a dispute, the Competitions sub-committee of the Society is the sole arbiter of the rules.
8. The Society will take every care of entries while they are in its possession but will not accept responsibility for loss or damage.
9. The BPS Cup remains the property of the Society.

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10. The winning exhibitor can keep the trophy until the first general meeting of February in the next year.
11. The winner will be given an inscribed certificate as a permanent record of their success.
12. (a) All entries will be examined by the judges appointed by the committee. In making their decisions, the judges will consider the following general points:
  - Presentation and display (including arrangement and mounting)
  - Annotation
  - Condition (making due allowance for the nature of the entry, the difficulty or otherwise of acquisition)
  - Philatelic knowledge
  - General interest

## **Congratulations**

We have two new members of the "50 Year Club". John Rennie is a Life Member and has been on the BPS Committee for 40 years and our Secretary for 15 years. Les Vincent is another who has given sterling service over many years. Congratulations to you both for your contributions over 50 years!

Tim Morgan who has been a BPS member and international exhibitor for many years has received a Life Achievement Award from the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Tim is a worldwide authority on the stamps of Canada and travels to that country often to participate and judge at various competitions.

## **Hard or soft copy?**

In our endeavours to reduce printing and postage costs of the Bulletin and auction catalogues we asked members to indicate if they were happy to receive these publications in an online (soft copy) version. There has been some misunderstanding and many members have now indicated they still wanted a paper (hard copy) version.

Therefore, we have erased all names from our online (Google Groups) database and all members will now receive a paper copy. However, if you would like to reduce our printing costs please send an email to our President Ian Sadler at [bpsian99@gmail.com](mailto:bpsian99@gmail.com)

## **Selling your collection?**

Last year we received the sad news that 13 of our members had passed away. Many family members were then left with the difficult task of disposing of the collections but not knowing how to do it. Please ensure that you leave instructions with your family that, when the time comes, the sales team at Brighton Philatelic Society will be happy to assist with the sale of your collection. We have received many glowing testimonials from families who were delighted with the service and results achieved.

## **Stamp Tip: Becoming a Stamp Dealer**

That title is misleading. This is not about how to become a stamp dealer, but instead is about that perhaps there are no longer enough professional stamp dealers. The same demographic trends that have resulted in the existing stamp collectors being older and fewer also affect stamp dealers. There are far fewer professional dealers today than there were just a few years ago. Some would argue that online auction sellers are the "new dealers". I disagree. While certainly the volume of material sold through online auctions is high, a close inspection of the offer listings and then the actual items if you win them quickly shows that many of the sellers are not "professional" dealers. Just because an online auction seller may have sold a large volume of material does not mean that they know much about what they are selling. It seems like a high percentage of online auction offerings are nothing more than a title and a picture. Sometimes the title is nothing more than "U.S. Cover", "Swedish stamp", or something similarly useless. The potential buyer is left to rely on the image. The image often does not show important aspects of the quality (for example an image that shows the backside of the stamp still does not tell you if it is NH vs LH vs regummed). And images often won't properly show something like a stamp on cover has a sealed tear. It seems too much coincidence that whenever an image is critically needed for identification or quality, that one just happens to be fuzzily out of focus. An image won't inform the majority of ordinary collectors whether an item is a

forgery or is repaired -- I see a huge amount of both offered in online auctions. It's disgusting to me.

I regularly receive emails from people who are not clients who say something like "I bought this cover in an online auction. Can you explain the postal markings to me?" I generally do try to be helpful, even though the purchase was made from a competitor, but I sometimes first ask "Did you ask the seller?" or "What did the seller say it was?" Universally, the buyer will say something like "The seller does not know anything about it." or "The seller did not reply to my inquiry." If a seller is unable to describe and explain what they are selling and sometimes won't even answer such an inquiry from a buyer, I simply can't consider them to be a "professional". There is one exception to my rule: If the seller honestly says in the description "This item is beyond my area of expertise. I don't have any further information than it is a Bulgarian railway stamp.", then I don't have a problem with that. Online auctions are a practical way for sellers to offer items that are beyond their normal scope of knowledge. That is completely appropriate as long as the seller does not suggest that the item is something that it is not and as long as the starting price is not so high as to suggest that the item has some value beyond what the seller knows. Anyway, back to the point. It seems like there are no longer enough stamp dealers to support collectors, especially within any given geographic area. There is no place (that I know of) that a stamp collector within 200 miles of me can go to see a display of stamp albums and supplies. How is a collector to get started using a certain type of album if they have never had the opportunity to see an example of that brand?

[This stamp tip is supplied by Jay Smith, a stamp dealer in Snow Camp, North Carolina specializing in Scandinavia.]

## Interview With Member Norm Mills

**Editor:** You are – as you put it – chasing 95 years old and still an active philatelist. Tell us a little about your interesting life.

**Norm Mills:** I started collecting stamps when I was about 10. My father was the first permanent police constable in Lorne, and I was encouraged to take an interest in stamps by my grandfather, who was a collector. During the Second World War I was a radar operator in the Navy, and my ship the HMAS Moresby was the lead ship in the acceptance of the Japanese surrender in Koepang in Timor. I was also one of the seamen involved in a mutiny on that ship – a response to overcrowding on the ship, poor conditions and a breakdown in leadership! During my later working life I was an accountant, and when I retired I had a particular interest in woodturning, but when that became too much for me I went back to my stamps. I had always retained an interest, but now I am taking it much more seriously.

**Ed:** Tell us about your involvement with BPS.

**Norm:** I have been a member for about 7 or 8 years and have particularly enjoyed going to the auctions. I bought a very large collection of Chinese stamps for our fellow member Buzz Cousins, but I am in the process of selling that and am now concentrating on my new passion for the stamps of Vietnam. Brighton is a wonderful club and I have enjoyed being a member there, but it is now difficult for me to get to meetings. But I am still very active in stamps – at the moment I am putting together a collection of stamps from the Japanese occupation of Timor for my great-grandson. I also spend time with fellow philatelists trying to help them re-organise their collections. If you are to take

our wonderful hobby seriously it is important that you put in the time to do proper research and set out your collections in an informative and interesting way.

**Ed:** Tell us about your decision to sell your Chinese collection.

**Norm:** I worry about what will happen to my stamp collection when I am no longer here to take care of it. I don't want my children to have the responsibility of dealing with everything when they have no real interest in stamps. I think it is very important for we older collectors to make arrangement like this. We need to leave clear instructions in our wills as to what needs to be done with our collections so that there can be no misunderstandings and disputes between our children.

**Ed:** Thank you Norm for spending the time to talk with us about your life and your interest in stamps.

### BRIGHTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY PROGRAM 2020

February	1	Premium auction 1.00 pm	
	11	<b>Ed: Kangaroo Varieties 7.15 pm</b>	
	11	<b>Display: Trans-Pacific Airmails 8.15 pm</b>	E
	18	Daytime meeting + education 10.00 am	D,E
	25	Members uncatalogued auction 7.30pm	
March	6	View catalogued lots 3-8pm	
	7	Members catalogued auction 1.00pm	
	10	<b>Ed: How to Display 7.15 pm</b>	E
	10	<b>Display: Ballarat PS 8.15pm</b>	
	17	Daytime meeting + education 10.00 am	D,E
	24	Members uncatalogued auction 7.30pm	
April	4	Premium auction 1.00pm	
	14	<b>One Frame Competition 8.00 pm</b>	E
	21	Daytime meeting + education 10.00 am	D,E
	28	Members uncatalogued auction 7.30pm	
May	2	Premium auction 1.00pm	
	12	<b>Ed: Collecting Thematics 7.15pm</b>	
	12	<b>Display: UK Queen Elizabeth II and Fauna Definitives 8.15 pm</b>	E
	19	Daytime meeting + education 10.00 am	D,E
	26	Members uncatalogued auction 7.30	

E = Exchange sheets

D = Daytime meeting

Tues. evening auction commences

7.30 p.m.

Tues. display evening commences

8:15 p.m.

Evening Auction Viewing

from 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday daytime from 10.00 am to 1:30 p.m.

Saturday auctions commence

1:00 p.m.

Uncat Sat Auctions Viewing:

from 10:30 am

Catalogued Auctions Viewing

Friday 3:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**All meetings are held at BRI-PHIL HOUSE, 80 Gardenvale Rd. GARDENVALE (Corner of Magnolia Rd)**