

## Bulletin

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

Dear Members,

What a different world we now live in! When I said, in February, “Welcome to another exciting year of Philately...”, I did not foresee how the Corona Virus would turn our lives upside down.

The good news is that your Committee is thinking about a return to regular meetings, including auctions. The BAD news is that we do not know WHEN. Resumption will require us to keep up social distancing and other State Government rules which apply to Bri Phil.

I hope you have all taken the opportunity to work on your collection and trim the unwanted material we all seem to get. I have been taking a lot of exercise and doing lots of reading and jigsaws.

To be more specific, please refer to the articles below regarding Auctions, Display meetings, Education meetings and Exchange sheets. *Please note the proviso: Await further confirmation before attending.* It is very good that Howard Ellis has kept the Members Circuit exchange sheets going; Ross and Marco have been collecting vendor material; and Eric and David have been attending to building maintenance and security. I'm sure our indomitable Treasurer and effective Membership Secretary have also been busy.

Please use our Website, [www.brightonps.org.au](http://www.brightonps.org.au), for updates, especially if you do not receive our Bri Phil emails.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you all again later in the year. I wish you good health and interesting times.

Best wishes

*Ian Sadler, President*

## Display Meetings

### Displays by All Members and One Frame Competition on July 14<sup>th</sup> (TBC)

- a) Club One Frame Competition. Bring out those entries for the Competition in April, which we had to postpone. 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. For rules see January Bulletin.

- b) The Letter 'W' by YOU. Our usual annual opportunity to display up to 15 sheets of stamps and covers from your collection, with some association with the letter 'W'. e.g. Western Australia, Württemberg, Williamstown, wings.

### **Early Australian 'Dealers' Covers by Andrew Balliss on August 11<sup>th</sup> (TBC)**

Andrew is going to show us his collection of rare Covers produced by Dealers for philatelists before Australia Post started theirs. These are very colourful and extremely collectable.

### **President's Display of China 1865-1949 and AGM on September 8<sup>th</sup> (TBC)**

Ian has a comprehensive collection of Chinese Treaty Ports, Imperial China, Republic of China and some Communist issues (1930-49) for you to examine. This includes rare issues from Shanghai and Imperial China's large dragons.

We strongly urge ALL members to attend for the Annual review of all areas of the Club, including Treasury, Exchange Sheets and Auctions.

### **GALA ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> (TBC)**

We hope to proceed with this bi-annual celebration of Stamps. It will involve displays by our Members relating to the three anniversaries (WWII, Qantas and Bri Phil Soc.). There will also be some Dealers, a talk on Aerophilately, food and lots of socialising.

Your Committee will soon consider whether this Gala will take place.

## **Education Meetings**

**7.15 pm, second Tuesdays. We expect evening Education meetings to start on August 11<sup>th</sup> and Day Education to re-start on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Please await confirmation before attending.**

**August 11<sup>th</sup> 'Cover Stories'** Presenter TBC.

A cover collector will explain the story behind several covers. Each cover tells a story in terms of sender, route travelled, postage paid, markings affixed and recipient. This is far more information than one gets with a stamp!

**Third Tuesday, Day meeting, 12 noon**

This **Education** meeting takes place immediately after the Auction finishes, in the Main Room. All Members are invited

**July 21<sup>st</sup> British Commonwealth, King George V & VI. (TBC)**

Ian will arrange for a club member, who collects these beautiful issues, to 'show and tell' about the wide variety of ways to collect King George stamps.

**August 18<sup>th</sup>. 'Cover Stories'. (TBC)**

A further talk about the Stories which explain the journeys that philatelic covers take (See above).

*Ian Sadler, Education Coordinator and President*

## **Auctions**

The main concern is safety of our members and as a club we cannot commence operations of any sort until we can be assured all operations are held in a completely

safe environment. With current Government restrictions and possible future changes to rules for meetings it is still too soon to determine how and when BPS Auctions can recommence.

We can be clear that auction operations at least initially will be very different to previous auctions. Everyone attending will be temperature tested and members with any cold symptoms will not be allowed to attend. Material for sale will be displayed in the Neufeld Hall to allow greater spacing and social distancing. Seating in the Church Hall for auctions will be spaced and we might have to limit the number of members in the Hall. Material purchased will be collected from the Neufeld Hall similarly to the system operating for catalogued auctions.

All of the above plans will be subject to change according to Government orders, but Sales Branch is working towards a return to Auctions as soon as possible.

At this time the next Catalogued auction is planned for November 7th and uncatalogued auctions to commence on July 4th or August 1st. Members will be advised of any further developments and dates once these can be firmly established.

*Jim Bell for Sales Branch*

## **New Members**

Please extend a friendly welcome to the following new members:

John Higgs – Sydney

Julia Morris – Brighton

David Shields – Sale

Simon Grant – Black Rock

## **Albums closed**

Dieter Habicht – a member since 1975

Ernst Palka - a member since 2004

Rod Perry - a member since 1961

Kaz Lysiuk – a member since 1979

Barry Jones – a member since 1995

## **Vale – Rodney A. Perry**

Rod Perry joined Brighton Philatelic Society in 1961 as a 13 year -old youngster. This makes him our second longest member behind the indefatigable Dr William Wells.

He started as a dealer by filling sheets for our exchange branch and after several years realized he was making more money as a dealer than his full-time job with the SEC of Victoria. And then aged only 23 he started Rodney A Perry Auction Galleries in 1971.

The auction business prospered with Rod Perry being the preferred auction house for many fine collections of the 1970s and 1980s. His business was sold in 2002 when Rod opted for a quieter lifestyle in far north Queensland.

Rod formed several magnificent collections, one of which was the stamps of Victoria which took the Grand Prix award in 1984 at the Ausipex Exhibition in Melbourne. Rod was one of the great innovators of philately in Australia and in the 1990s he bought the moribund Australia Commonwealth Specialists Catalogue and employed Geoff Kellow to rewrite and greatly expand the slim volume that formerly existed. Rod wrote a column for Stamp News for over 20 years, extolling the virtues of collecting Australian covers and their usage.

Apart from philately Rod was interested in grand buildings and purchased and extensively renovated the old Tramways building in Bourke St, Melbourne. From there he ran his very popular public auctions. When it came time to sell up and move to Queensland the BPS committee inspected the furniture in his building which was also to be sold. Due to Rod's long affiliation with our club we were able to purchase the massive bookshelves which are now in our Neufeld Hall and holds our very highly regarded library. We also purchased our auctioneer's podium which many members believe was a pulpit in the old church but was in fact obtained due to the generosity of Rod Perry.

Rod Perry was a doyen of Australian philately – an encyclopedia of stamp knowledge and a man who was always ready to share that knowledge.

A very sad loss for the hobby and one of the great characters and gentlemen of the stamp business.

## **Lord Baden-Powell**

In 2008 the Scouting movement in Australia celebrated their centenary. BPS conducted a huge weekend with special exhibits and guest speakers. Our own Dr William Wells was Chief Commissioner for Scouting in Australia for many years and so was one of our honoured speakers.

Another guest over that weekend was Michael Baden-Powell who is the grandson of Lord Robert Baden-Powell who founded the worldwide Boy Scouts movement in the UK and was the commanding officer at the siege of Mafeking during the Boer War of 1899-1902.

Michael is an Honorary Member of the Scout and Guide Stamp Society and has been an occasional visitor to its special events. His brother who lives in the UK was the current Lord Baden-Powell but has recently passed away and so the title moves to Michael Baden-Powell.

So we congratulate the local lad who now becomes Lord Baden-Powell, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron of Gilwell. Gilwell Park in the UK was where the Scouting movement was founded and is now used as a major training facility for adult leader training.

*Ross Newton & William Wells*

## **Library News**

A stocktake of the library shelves will take place over the next few weeks. This will include some reorganization of the library shelves which are overcrowded in places, a

check of all outstanding loans, and checking to ensure that all our books are labelled and have BPS ownership stamps. ***I need to have all borrowed books returned as soon as possible so that they are part of the stocktake.*** A new library catalogue will be produced then the stocktake is finished.

We continue to get donations to the library with the latest being two boxes of mainly Australian George V books and monographs from the estate of Dieter Habicht given to us by his daughter Asa Smith. Our thanks to Asa.

Over the past few years we have accumulated many duplicate magazines and after our stocktake many boxes will be offered in our uncatalogued auctions. Watch out for them because there are many issues from small specialist societies which are not often seen.

*Ray Price - Librarian*

## **BPS 70-Year History**

A new history of our Society is being prepared to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its foundation, so we are requesting all members who might have stories, photographs or other material that could be included to send them as soon as possible to Carole Czermak or Carol Rosenhain either by email [briphilhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:briphilhouse@hotmail.com) or by mail to BPS 70th History, Bri Phil House, 80 Gardenvale Road Gardenvale VIC 3185.

## **A Reminder**

We still 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 Society a lot of postage, but only if you do *not* need hard copies.

*Ian Sadler, President*

## **Interview with our Exchange Branch Co-ordinator Howard Ellis**

**Editor: When and why did you start stamp collecting?**

**Howard:** I started “stamp collecting” in the 1990’s. I somehow met up with John Rennie through my brother-in-law – they both worked for the same company. I have always had some interest in philately but had not actively collected possibly because I had not come across others who had that interest. John naturally led me to the Brighton Philatelic Society.

**Ed: What areas do you collect and what have you displayed?**

**Howard:** Although stamps interested me, I was not sure what area of interest I should concentrate on. However, on writing up our family history I realized I had an interest

in post offices. The first post office in the Greta district in Victoria was run from the farm taken up by my great grandfather Thomas Ellis and great uncle Samuel Ellis in the early 1860's. The first post office opened on 4 September 1863. Samuel Ellis was the first Postmaster from 1863 to 1882 when my great grandmother took over and ran it till 1889. I have been able to find a reasonable amount of philatelic material relating to the Greta post office – it was given the bar numeral number 444 in those early days and examples of that are relatively easy to locate.

**Ed: Do you have an interesting anecdote about philately?**

**Howard:** Another matter of interest to us as a family was that Samuel Ellis was also the first mail contractor for the district. He took the mail to and from Wangaratta three days per week on horseback, a distance of 15 miles. The contract commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1863 and he was paid 15 shillings per week.

**Ed: Please give me a brief bio of yourself**

**Howard:** I grew up on a farm in the Greta district and attended the Greta State School for my primary school education. The school was next to the post office and kids that attended the school picked up the mail after school and took it home to their parents. At that stage the mail contractor was the husband of the Greta post mistress and it was picked up at Glenrowan having been brought up from Melbourne by train each day. I have family in NSW as well and my wife's family comes from Adelaide, so for that reason, I limited my collecting of post marks and post offices to Victoria, NSW and SA. This is far too big an area but I find it interesting. When we travel I collect post marks from the towns we travel through and photograph the post offices – some towns have the most amazing old post office buildings.

So, you can see my interest relates to family history and there is Ned Kelly intertwined in that as well. As an aside the Greta police station from where they hunted Ned Kelly later became the Greta West post office after it was decommissioned as a police station and a relation of Ned Kelly was post mistress at one stage.

**Ed: How much time do you spend on philately per week?**

**Howard:** I spend a reasonable amount of my time on philately. I was the Club's membership officer for a number of years and not so long ago took on the task of one of the Club's Exchange Branch Coordinators. This keeps me busy.

**Ed: Do you have any advice for new collectors wishing to develop their hobby?**

My advice to new collectors is ensure you find an area that interests you. Also ask about the various aspects of the Club and take part in the activities of the Club. Make sure you are a contributor as this will provide you with a social aspect as well.

**Ed: Many thanks for answering this questionnaire.**

## **Commentary: Iceland to Discontinue Stamp Issues**

Today I received word, by way of a collector who noticed Iceland's Facebook posting and who also received an official email notification, that Iceland will cease issuing new stamps at the end of 2020. The information I received is:

"It has been announced that 2020 will see the last of Iceland's stamp issues. Two issues are planned this year, the first one today May 7<sup>th</sup> and the second and last one is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>. For the first Icelandic stamp issue of 2020,

eleven new stamps will be released in eight series. As these will be Iceland Post's very last issues, we hope you will appreciate the care and dedication put into their making and design."

It is my understanding that Iceland still has extensive stocks (perhaps enough for several years) of previously released stamps and may continue to sell them for postal use. Last year, the post office had said that their philatelic office would be closed down this year. I do not know the current plan, if any, for philatelic sales.

Because of previous announcements from Iceland Post, this news does not come as a surprise, but it is very sad to hear. The officially offered reasons all centre around the high costs of producing, issuing, and selling stamps. Unfortunately, in making this decision, Iceland has chosen to ignore the non-financial benefits of stamps. Stamps are a national symbol, carrying the image of the country around the world. They are also a domestic patriotic and cultural focal point. Those purposes should mean something, but apparently not enough when budgets are tight. I do truly understand the need for stamp issues to "pay their own way". However there are multiple ways to achieve this critical need and it is NOT obvious to me that Iceland Post exhausted the potential possibilities to solve the problems. The financial reasons I have heard are always stated in very general terms. However, I have NOT heard any suggestions from officials that expenses could or should be reduced. In my opinion, to a large extent, what has happened, beyond the failure to market their products, is that the people doing the work have priced themselves out of a job.

[This commentary has been supplied by Jay Smith, a stamp dealer from Snow Camp, North Carolina specialising in Scandinavia. For those of us who have been collectors of Iceland stamps for many years this news comes as a serious blow, but all philatelists should be concerned that this kind of cost-cutting measure might also be adopted by other countries – Editor]

**For notes on the upcoming programme see pages 1-2**