



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

Dear Fellow Members,

We have had a wonderful start to the year with several magnificent displays and social events. In February we were shown a superb Postal History exhibit by Gary Diffen on the Australian Light Horse Campaign. 38 people attended including several visitors. The fact we introduced our first exhibit for the year with champagne and nibbles may have helped to swell the numbers.

Our March catalogue auction was very successful with 73% of lots being sold and the July catalogued auction also has many rare and interesting items – something for everyone! We were successful in producing photos of key items in the March auction and we will be showing more photos for the July auction.

As was mentioned in the March auction catalogue a great deal of material collected by Ian Dennehy, a BPS Fellow and long-time member, was offered for sale. Ian has been a life-long collector of Japan and Australia BCOF and there is more outstanding material for sale in the July auction. If you cannot attend the auction, please take advantage of the postal bid option that is attached to the last page of the catalogue.

In April the VPC Congress was held at BriPhil House and again we were treated to some outstanding exhibits with several fulltime dealers in attendance. An information session was held to outline the activities of the VPC (Victorian Philatelic Council) and a healthy discussion followed concerning the future of the hobby and how we can all work together to ensure small stamp clubs continue to operate.

Looking ahead on June 13 we have an International Gold Medal exhibit by Mark Diserio titled 'Victoria – Envelopes embossed with the 2d De La Rue Die 1869-1885'. Our members put an enormous amount of time into producing these exhibits for your enjoyment, so I am seeking an excellent attendance on that evening.

The Daytime meeting will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am with exchange sheets, a mini-auction and a great opportunity to socialize with other stamp collectors in a very relaxed setting. June closes with a Tuesday night auction at 7.00pm on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Elsewhere in this Bulletin you will read the exciting news that we have two new convenors for our Exchange Branch. This is one of the major attractions for collectors to join BPS and we are delighted that this service will continue.

During the past six months several of our members have submitted exhibits for national and international Philatelic Exhibitions and have been very successful. We congratulate those members for the time (and expense) involved in preparing these exhibits and

thank them for establishing the reputation of BPS as more than just a 'stamp auction club'.

Further on in this Bulletin you will read of our forthcoming Stamp Fair which will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October. The themes will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Disney Corporation and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary in Australia which was postponed due to the Covid lockdown. Please mark this in your diary as it will be an exciting weekend.

Two of our Committee members Vanessa Henry and Deb Harms have established a presence for BPS on social media through Facebook and Instagram. This has resulted in 16 new members joining BPS over the past 3 months. There is no doubt that the younger generation (in our case that is anyone under 60 years of age) seek information through social media and we have been delighted with the comments and any questions that have been posted. An introduction on how to access Facebook and the Brighton Philatelic Society page can be found on our website along with this Bulletin.

We are very grateful to Deb and Vanessa as the posting of this material is very time consuming, but the results have been very rewarding.

The membership fees are due on July 1<sup>st</sup> and due to rising costs, the Committee regret that the fees will have to be increased to \$40 for the 2023/24 year.

Happy Philately,  
Ross Newton, *President 2022-23*

## **Display Meetings on Second Tuesday of the Month - at 8.15pm**

***June 13 - 'Victoria – Envelopes embossed with the 2d De La Rue Die '1869-1885' by Mark Diserio***

This is an International Gold Medal exhibit and an outstanding example of a Postal History exhibit. Please come along to explore this very interesting period of our history.

***July 11 – The Letter 'A'***

We have worked our way through the alphabet and it's time to start again! All members are invited to bring along items with a connection to the letter 'A'. This is a yearly event that always leads to some imaginative and entertaining philatelic ideas. So many countries starting with A (and of course the big Land Down Under) but what about Armadillos, Astronauts, Art, etc.

## **Philatelic Meetings on Second Tuesday of the Month - Evenings at 7.15pm**

**June 13<sup>th</sup>: 'What do I collect?'** by Stephen Bradford.

Stephen has some interesting Australian covers. He will explain his collecting interests and show us some of his material. Please come for an interesting evening.

**July 11<sup>th</sup>. 'How to research your Country Collection'** by Ian Sadler

So, you collect Norfolk Island, Samoa, United Kingdom or PNG? And you want to take your knowledge beyond the postage stamps? Ian will explain how you can find out the postal

history and the reasons behind the stamps of the particular Country you collect. This would give you a whole new dimension to your *hobby*.

### **Co-Convenor**

I am looking for a Member to become Co-Convenor of the Philatelic Section of Bri Phil. I have been Convening Philatelic Meetings for many years. I would like someone to bring new ideas, starting later this year.

Ian Sadler, *Philately Coordinator*

## **Stamp and Cover Collectors' Forum**

Meetings will continue to be on the first Wednesday of each month at Bri Phil House during the winter. (Zoom meetings are considered too difficult to organise successfully).

All Members are invited to show interesting items on the day.

### **Wednesday, June 7th at 2pm (Bri Phil House).**

Ian Sadler will show items from his Indian collection, including his new Jaipur Princely State exhibit.

Other Members show items.

Chat about collecting experiences.

Afternoon tea will be provided.

### **Wednesday, July 5th and August 5th at 2pm**

A similar Agenda to the June meeting.

Convenors: Ian Sadler (0403 225 476)

and Alistair Glass (0402 265 037).

## **New Exchange Branch Superintendent**

Following several meetings and due diligence being undertaken we are delighted to announce that Dr Chris Hamilton has accepted the position of Exchange Branch Superintendent for the metropolitan region. Mr James Marinis will continue his excellent work as Superintendent of the Regional Circuits (country and interstate members).

Chris has been working with our previous incumbent Howard Ellis for some time and has developed an impressive batch of excel spreadsheets to ease the work burden as books circulate. The great work already being done by Michael Tonta in assembling the sheets into books will continue.

We express our thanks to these three gentlemen for taking on these roles as a large percentage of our members consider this one of their most popular activities.

Now that a new Superintendent has been appointed we can start receiving new sheets from members. Also many new members who had indicated they wish to be added to the exchange circuits operating in their areas will now be added. All communication should be done through the BPS website.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Howard Ellis who has run the Exchange Branch for several years. This is a very time-consuming job, and we are very grateful to Howard for his contribution.

BPS has been operating the largest Exchange Branch circuits in Australia for many years and the convenience of working through these albums in their homes is greatly appreciated by our members.

## **Club Competition Results**

Our annual one-frame competition was held on April 11<sup>th</sup>. This year we were delighted to have nine entries from members but again a very poor attendance of only 15 came along to view the displays. We thank those members who submitted entries as this is a very important part of the life of the club.

Our judges awarded the Club Champion trophy to our President, Ross Newton, for a very informative display outlining the drama of the Apollo 13 space mission. The popular vote as judged by the members in attendance was awarded to Dr Ian Sadler who presented a very impressive display on the early stamps of Ceylon.

## **New Members**

Please extend a friendly welcome to the following new members:

Lorraine Fitzwater – Glenhuntly  
Luping Ye – Carnegie  
Ross Boyd – Braddon, ACT  
Margaret Wallace – Eaglemont  
Ricardo Cusolito – Mulgrave  
Mike Puccetti – Cressy, Tasmania  
Steve Kroon - Prospect, SA  
Amber Templeton – Newport  
Patricia Macartney – Brighton  
William Cropley – Warragul  
Peter Forrai – Caulfield  
Laurie Baxter – Traralgon  
Doug Wilson – Noble Park  
Barry Jones – Tootgarook  
Tim Schofield – Berwick  
Lucas Krone - St Arnaud  
Michael Florence – Dingley Village

## **Albums Closed**

Margaret Gonshor – a member since 1966  
Ian Tomlinson – a member since 1988  
John Freney-Mills – a member since 1979  
Alex McKnight – a member since 2009

## **BPS Stamp Fair Sunday October 8th 2023**

We will be holding the first stamp fair since COVID on Sunday 8th October 2023. Themes for the day will be 100 years of Rotary (postponed from last year) and 100 years of Disney. The day will include displays, dealers, children's activities and competitions with prizes to be won! Entry is free, and members are invited to submit Displays for the day, with the most popular display being awarded a prize. More details will be published in the coming weeks via email & social media. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact us on **(03) 9530 6760** or Email us at [briphilhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:briphilhouse@hotmail.com)

## **Social Media**

As mentioned in our February bulletin, Brighton Philatelic Society is now engaging with a broader audience via social media, actively posting on BPS pages on Facebook and Instagram, providing information on upcoming activities as well as showcasing events that have occurred including our successful Displays. Since the beginning of the year our membership on our Facebook and Instagram accounts has risen dramatically, with interest resulting in increased attendance at BPS events and an increase in BPS membership! The Committee would like to send a big thankyou to Vanessa Henry for her work in this area. If you haven't already logged in to either of these social media accounts, the easiest way is as follows:

1. go to BPS website via the internet at <https://brightonps.org.au>
2. on the home page, on the top right-hand-side of the screen, select one the following buttons :



- to access our BPS site on Instagram



- to access our BPS site on Facebook

More information on how to navigate BPS on social media can be found on our website here : <https://brightonps.org.au/bps-bulletin/entry/1900>

## **Annual General Meeting**

This year's AGM is on September 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 8pm. All the important official items of the Society will be reported on and the new President for 2022/23 will be introduced and chair the meeting. The outgoing President will be displaying some of his collection. All members are invited and encouraged to support the society on this evening and to witness the many different aspects of our wonderful club.

This is also an opportunity for those members who would like to become more involved in the activities of the Club to put themselves forward as possible office bearers or committee members. Please think about this and contact the President if you would like to find out more.

Details of the AGM along with nomination forms will be contained in the next issue of the Bulletin.

## **Discussion Point: The State of Philatelic Education**

When I refer to "philatelic education", I mean the general philatelic knowledge of "average" collectors, the means available for collectors to increase their knowledge, and the dysfunction in the hobby that may limit collectors' educational opportunities. Back

in the "good old days", collectors learned from one another, often at stamp club meetings or stamp shows, as well as being able to visit the local neighbourhood stamp shop where one could ask questions of the dealer. Many shop-based dealers went out of their way to educate new collectors.

Many of those opportunities for in-person interaction are long gone. Stamp shows are fewer and/or more difficult to attend. Stamp clubs are also fewer as their traditional membership base has aged and newer collectors have been less likely to participate in such activities. I surely don't have to say that there are extremely few stamp shops still operating. Discussing what has led this reality is a subject for another time.

There have long been, but especially in the 1940s-1980s, philatelic "how to" books published, targeted to the new collector. They were and are all extremely useful, however, it seems that -- at least these days -- very few new or intermediate collectors will sit down and actually read such a book (and thus get a broad base of knowledge, rather than just an answer to a specific question).

As the Internet developed, there was, for a while, a sense that the Internet could be the saviour of philatelic education. Using the Internet, one can have discussions with other collectors 24/7/365 and learn from other collectors located all around the world. The ability for content creators and all users to combine text, images, and videos, and hyperlink to a huge range of resources, seemed like it would be the perfect solution and perhaps even be better than the "old way". Unfortunately, human nature intervened as it usually does. One of the fundamental problems with the Internet as a solution to the dearth of philatelic education is that, while the Internet is very good at getting specific answers to specific questions, the Internet is not so good at educating collectors about subjects that they were not even aware that they needed to (or would want to) know more about. It is a "if you look you will find" kind of situation. However, if you don't know to look, and if you are not a person who just naturally spends hours exploring web pages on the Internet, then you are not as likely to be exposed to new philatelic methods, ideas, concepts, etc.

Another aspect of the way that we currently tend to use the Internet is that, except for active participation in discussion forums, we use the Internet's resources in very passive ways. For example, for many reasons, most collectors tend not to post images of their album pages on the Internet -- thus they don't get any feedback on what they are doing or how they are doing it.

Of course, when properly used, search engines and following links on web pages can be an enormously valuable resource. However, using such resources requires a different process and mindset than may be typically employed by a new collector. Also, many of the search engine results tend to lead the new collector to commercial websites that are trying to sell stamps rather than to educate. There are a range of "general philatelic" websites available that do have the goal to educate. Some of them are really good.

Others were started with a lot of energy, but eventually ran out of steam. The challenge with these websites seems to have been PROMOTION. Unfortunately, with all the billions of web pages that people could look at, getting people to actively, rather than passively (just to get a specific question answered) use such web pages/sites requires making collectors aware that these sites exist. And that is very hard to do.

Without PROMOTION -- which requires dedicating a large number of hours to the process of letting the world know about your website -- one could have the best stamp

education website in the world but very few people would actually know about it and use it. Sometimes "build it and they will come" is not enough. There have been a variety of attempts of philatelic organizations, including dealers' organizations, to work with the venues to create and promote philatelic education content. However, these seem to have been short-lived, and usually die whenever there is a management change at the venue.

**[This discussion point was contributed by Jay Smith, a stamp dealer from Snow Camp, North Carolina. At BPS we certainly do take philatelic education seriously and organise regular sessions, but if you have any thoughts on the questions raised here, please contact Ian Sadler or myself. Ed.]**

#### BRIGHTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY PROGRAM 2023

June	3	Auction 1.00pm	
	13	<b>Phil: What do I Collect 7.15pm</b>	
	13	<b>Display: Victoria 2d Envelopes 1869-1885 8.15 pm</b>	E
	20	Daytime meeting 10.00 am	D,E
	27	Auction 7.00pm	
July	4	Catalogue Auction 1.00pm	
	11	<b>Phil: How to Research Your Country Collection 7.15 pm</b>	E
	11	<b>Display: Letter A 8.15pm</b>	E
	18	Daytime meeting 10.00 am	D,E
	25	Auction 7.00 pm	
August	5	Auction 1.00pm	
	8	<b>Phil: Why Collect Covers? 7.15pm</b>	
	8	<b>Display: British New Guinea &amp; Papua 8.15pm</b>	E
	15	Daytime meeting 10.00am	D,E
	22	Auction 7.00pm	
Sept.	2	Auction 1.00 pm	
	12	<b>AGM &amp; President's Display 8.00 pm</b>	E
	19	Daytime meeting 10.00 am	D,E
	26	Auction 7.00pm	

E = Exchange sheets	D = Daytime meeting
Tues. evening auction commences	7.00 p.m.
Tues. display evening commences	8:15 p.m.
Evening Auction Viewing	from 5:00 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 10:00 am
Catalogued Auctions Viewing	Friday 3:00 – 7.30 p.m.
	Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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