

BRIGHTON POST

Bulletin of the Brighton
Philatelic Society
Vol. 66 No.1 February 2026



**BRIGHTON PHILATELIC
SOCIETY INC**

ABN: 45 087 719 689

Founded in 1950

Society Postal Address

PO Box 8062

North Road LPO

East Brighton Vic 3187

Phone: (03) 9530 6760

Website: www.brightonps.org.au

President and Sales Branch Convenor: Michael Tonta

Vice-President: Andrew Ballis

Secretary: Stephen Bradford

Treasurer: Brad Baker

Philatelic Convenor: Charles Bromser

Property Manager: John Snowden

Membership Officer: Deb Harms

Sales Branch Convenor: David Shutler

Exchange Co-ordinators: Chris Hamilton & James Marinis

Librarian: Ian Sadler

Bulletin Editor: John McKay

Committee: Those listed above and Ross Newton & Gerard McCulloch

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Philatelists,

Our 2026 program got off to a fantastic start on 13 January at the Members Trading Night, which was in full swing even before the official start time of 7.30pm. Lots of sales and exchanges were made and this is a great way for you to clear out some items to make room for more over the course of the year! Of course, 2026 also started with January delivering some incredible heat and both floods and fires across Victoria. Our thanks must go to the many volunteers who work selflessly to help protect our community. Some of our members have been affected and we all hope that they are now safe and that their collections are also safe! Regretfully the heatwave led to the cancellation of the Tuesday 27 January auction as we put the health and safety of members first – I'm certain that the auction room on a 45+ degree day would have been quite unpleasant and quite unsafe. Let's hope that does not need to happen again!

Our 2026 program is available on the website (www.brightonps.org.au) and has also been printed and made available to members. The year ahead offers a large range of activities, from stamp auctions (both catalogued and uncatalogued), coin and banknote auctions, the daytime meeting, our display meetings, philately meetings, questions about stamp collecting sessions and the stamp and cover forum. With events held during the day and in the evening both during the week and weekends, there is sure to be something of interest to members. Feedback on the program is welcome and suggestions for speakers for future events are encouraged. Following the success of the coin and banknote auctions in 2025 they are returning in 2026. With gold and silver prices going through the roof lately, now is the time for you to consign your coins to the 1st coin and banknote auction of the year to be held on Saturday 30 May.

A big thank-you to both Gerard and Deb for their ongoing work in promoting the activities of Brighton Philatelic through their regular weekly emails to members. These emails are a great reminder of things happening in the following week as well as a way to promote auctions and events from other philatelic clubs in Victoria and elsewhere. If you know of a club event that could be promoted to our members, let Deb or Gerard know by responding to one of their weekly emails. Our Club is also promoted through various social media channels, and this has been our main source of new members over the last couple of years. The Committee is discussing how we can engage the many thousands of collectors who are enjoying our hobby via social media but not via a formal club like Brighton, so we would welcome your ideas on this. This will also be a subject we will return to during the year as we look to the future of the hobby and how to grow it.

Work continues at Bri-Phil House to ensure that the building is maintained to a good standard, with some work due to commence shortly on the damp course to address some rising damp in the Wells Hall. With our building now over 100 years old, we will need to continue to invest in maintaining the building. Please have a look at our 2026 program and mark the many activities and events in your diary. I look forward to seeing you at an event in the coming months!

Michael Tonta (President 2025/26)

DISPLAY: TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY AT 8.15 PM

THE QUEEN'S MAN – A STUDY OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S FRANK STAMP

BY MARK DISERIO

Mark's exhibit was runner up at Toowoomba 2924 (National One-Frame Stamp Exhibition) and is an exemplar of one-frame exhibiting. The display will be supplemented by material from Mark's collection that didn't make the exhibit, together with additional complementary material from Michael Tonta's collection. This relates mainly to the Federation Celebrations in Sydney, in January 1901 and the Royal Visit and Opening of the First Federal Parliament in Melbourne, in May 1901. Michael and Mark's material will appeal to philatelists and non-philatelists alike and especially those with an interest in Australia's federation history.



DISPLAY: TUESDAY 10 MARCH AT 8.15 PM

**EARLY PICTURE POSTCARDS OF AUSTRALIA
BY GARY WATSON**

Everyone will have received picture postcards (PPCs) from relatives and friends travelling around Australia or overseas. Postcards have actually been around for more than 150 years, the earliest issues being simply an inexpensive way of exchanging brief messages. One day, some clever human decided to liven up his (probably) or her correspondence by printing pictures on postcards. Prior to 1905, only the address was permitted on the (undivided) back of a postcard. This meant that many of the early PPCs had rather small pictures plus space for a message on the other side. This display shows how the concept developed from the earliest days until 1905, when correspondence was allowed alongside the address. This was a real game-changer, not necessarily for the better. If you enjoy history, art, graphic design, or simply "nice things", you will be enchanted by this 150-page display. Make it a real social outing and bring your partner or a friend.

Gary Watson



DISPLAY: TUESDAY 12 MAY AT 8.15 PM

**JAPANESE CONQUEST AND DEFEAT IN WORLD WAR II
BY IAN SADLER**

This seven- frame display uses philately and ephemera to tell the story of WW11 in the Pacific from Pearl Harbour, 1941, until the surrender in September 1945. It covers all the Japanese conquests in Asia and the Pacific in 1941-42. The Japanese occupations of many countries (e.g. Philippines, Indonesia, Malaya) is covered, followed by their defeat as the Allies pushed them back into Japan and used Atom Bombs to cause the Japanese Military Government to surrender unconditionally. The land and sea battles are covered chronologically. A major section is devoted to letters to and from Japanese prisoners of war. Because the exhibit is entered Internationally in the 'Open Class', banknotes, medals and photos are used to enhance the philatelic material. The author has sourced and constructed this display over a ten-year period culminating in getting a Gold Medal in New Zealand early in 2025.

Ian Sadler



Airmail cover to Hong Kong not sent due to the war, in 1942



'V J Day' (Victory over Japan) cover from Ohio to Melbourne in September, 1945



Unique cover from a ship at the Japanese surrender signed by POWs and sailors, September 1945.



Annual BPS Competition

The competition for the Brighton Philatelic Society (BPS) Cup will be held on April 14th, 2026. 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.
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. 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

Members considering entering this competition, and particularly those who are new to exhibiting, are reminded that on February 10th Mark Diserio will be giving some advice on the preparation of one-frame exhibits at the Philatelic Meeting at 7.15 pm (see page below), and on 10 March there is a presentation on creating a display..

PHILATELIC MEETINGS: TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 7.15

Tuesday 10 FebruaryFeb: Mark Diserio- One-frame Exhibiting

Mark is Australia's expert for One-frame exhibiting. He has many advanced exhibits on various subjects. One-frame exhibiting is for both novice and experienced exhibitors. Australia has special exhibiting rules in order to encourage new exhibitors. A One-frame exhibit is recognised as an easy way to begin the long road of exhibiting at level beyond the club. Mark will talk about the requirements for those starting out and the challenge of a narrow theme for the more experienced exhibitor.

Tuesday 10 March: Creating a Display

The Brighton competition is in April, and this meeting hopes to answer questions for members who have started their entries and to nudge others to have a go! The fun part of philately is sharing one's collection with others, so hopefully the people will be inspired to display.

Tuesday 12 May: Member's Favourite Item

Ian Sadler will facilitate the show & tell of items that people have bought along because they are special to them. This talk has been given before and it is one of the favourite meetings of the year. There is always a great variety of stamps, covers and letters sent all over the world or with unusual markings. The story behind the items is always fascinating.

STAMP & COVER COLLECTORS' FORUM & QUESTIONS

Questions about Stamp Collecting on Tuesday, March 31st at 2pm Andrew Ballis will talk about:

'The Fascination of Australian King George V stamps'.

One of our Members has whole sheets of them. Our library has a shelf of books. Bring yours to compare.

There will also be a 'Show and Tell' plus simple Afternoon Tea.

Stamp Forum, Wednesday, March 4th * at 2pm

Relaxed Agenda:

- President of the Australian Philatelic Society, John Young, will talk about and display 'Trans Atlantic Airmails'. These most interesting Covers explained by an expert.
- Members show items and chat about collecting experiences.
- Simple afternoon tea provided.

Stamp Forums will be held on Wednesday, April 8th and May 6th They will feature a topic of great interest and a similar agenda.N.B. April 8th is a week later than usual so that it does Not clash with the Questions meeting on March 31st.

Convenors: Ian Sadler (0403 225 476)Andrew Ballis (0418 530 937)

NEW MEMBERS

Please extend a friendly welcome to the following new members:

Robin Pollet – Hoppers Crossing
Robert Service – Perth, W.A.
Albert Farrugia – St Kilda
Paul Marantelli – Ascot Vale
Noel Almeida – Dandenong /
Peter Cass – Keysborough

ALBUMS CLOSED

Laurie Rattray-Wood – a member since 2000
Stan Halbish – a member since 2010
Paul Rapke – a member since 2015
Ray Lancaster – a member since 2012

STAMP NEWS

The Brighton Philatelic Society has a continuous run of issues of Stamp News and its forerunner the Australian Stamp Monthly which began in 1931. This continuous collection is one of the few complete collections in Australia. For over 20 years one of our members has been supplying his copy for our library. Due to the rising costs and the diminished value of the articles he has discontinued his subscription. We would like to continue to have this magazine in our library so if any member is able to pass on their copies to our librarian it would be greatly appreciated

BPS HELPS CHARITIES

Most of our members use Brighton Philatelic Society as a means of buying and selling stamps! A much smaller cohort appreciate the magnificent displays which we offer every month. But BPS also sells stamps to aid a number of charities. Six years ago we established a relationship with the Rotary Club of Glen Waverley who were inundated with bags of stamps with no way of selling them. The sale of the stamps was to raise money to eradicate trachoma which causes blindness amongst our indigenous community. Australia is the only country in the world which still suffers from this disease. With your help Rotary aims to eradicate the disease by the end of 2026. During the past 6 years BPS have made payments to Rotary to the value of over \$11,000. During the past few years we have also sold over \$1,000 of bulk stamps for Mornington Legacy. Also several large amounts have been sent to Leprosy Australia and also Diabetes Australia. If you would like to help these charities by donating bags of stamps or small albums we would be pleased to receive your donations.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

A volunteer is needed to join the "Sammy Stamp" team. "Sammy Stamp" is a group under the Uniting Church which sells donated used stamps for charity. In recent years \$30 - \$40 thousand dollars has been given to worthy causes. "Sammy Stamp" meets in the U.C. hall next to the church at 15 Black St, Middle Brighton on Thursday mornings. Any interested person is welcome to visit just to see the activity, or also to buy from the stamps available. Enquiries may be made to Leon Pederick (5222 8202) or Alan Clark (convenor) (9557 1008)

WHY I COLLECT PICTURE POSTCARDS

by Gary Watson

Many readers will know that I evolved from a postmark addict into a serious postal historian more than 20 years ago. My principal collection, 'Australian Mail to Overseas Destinations' has always included picture postcards (PPCs), many with beautiful illustrations but always subordinate to the postal history elements. Perhaps surprisingly, my first foray into acquiring postcards specifically for the pictures was a result of marrying a young lady from Sri Lanka. From my many visits to the island formerly known as Ceylon, I came to embrace the culture, the vibe, and the people. To enhance my knowledge of Ceylon, I began devouring books and became deeply interested in the history of this remarkable country that had endured colonial occupation by the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British.

I also discovered that PPCs, most of them produced locally, made the social and cultural ways of the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil and other minorities come to life.



The views revealed ancient ruins and monuments that rival those of Egypt and Greece. They showed both the influence of the colonial masters and the resilience of the local people. Plantation society, housing, transport, costumes, festivals and religious themes all enchanted me. I became a student of the card publishers and can often identify their work from distinctive pictorial styles and captions. The way the native typesetters can mangle the English inscriptions - something that can also be a feature of English cards! - was the source of much entertainment. I became widely-known as the go-to guy for people wanting to sell Ceylonese cards. It was inevitable that I would also be attracted to collecting Australian cards, many of which are quite delightful and enchanting.



I was particularly attracted to cards produced by Robert Jolley, a Melbourne stationer. At an Abacus auction in 2023, a batch of Jolleys were going unloved. I made a snap decision from the rostrum to give them a new home. The die was cast.

Those who are close to me know that I have a slightly (alright, out-of-control) obsessive nature. I knew I was likely to throw myself at this new project, boots and all...which, of course, I did. Having already developed several extensive collections, from Melbourne Date stamps to the Stamps of Ceylon, and Aerogrammes of the Arabian Gulf to the Postal Stationery of Victoria, I knew how to harness my compulsion, and the rules that needed to be applied. My "need" was to acquire every variant of every image and every caption, both unused and used. (I know, that sounds like a recipe for insanity!) Quality was always important but the reference element means I can accept a card with minor imperfections or stamps neatly removed, until better examples happen along. One of my collecting mantras is "Upgrade! Upgrade! Upgrade!"

Being aware of the vast scope of Australian PPCs, I did set an important and immovable boundary. From the outset, I limited my collection to the period when correspondence was **not** permitted on the address-side, the Undivided Back (UB) years. Often, very often, I have been on the verge of buying a card that has obvious UB attributes, only to flip it to the address side and be disappointed to find the telltale vertical dividing line of later issues. It can be very tempting to buy such a card based on the justification "I'll dispose of it when I get the UB version". But it simply doesn't "belong", and if it doesn't fit, I won't acquire it for the collection.

My personal opinion is that the UB period is the most interesting of all. This is the pioneer era when the earliest intrepid promoters were developing both their production methods and their marketing skills. As with any innovation - think personal computers or artificial intelligence - everybody wants a piece of the action but only a few will make it big. In the space of only eight years, literally hundreds of budding postcard entrepreneurs came and went, many leaving little or no trace of their output. For this reason, there are thousands of extremely rare cards lurking in often unlikely places. When they do appear - in a decrepit family album, at a car-boot sale, in a dealer's stock, or on ebay - usually they are little understood and are available for a relative pittance.

This happy situation means that every serious collector is likely to possess cards that are akin to the proverbial hen's teeth, perhaps even unique!



And what cards they are! I believe that the UB period represents the pinnacle of PPC production. The images were thoughtfully selected. The balance between image and writing-space was carefully assessed. The visual appeal of many designs was enhanced by

Art Nouveau or other graphic elements. There was a focus on the decorative that was largely lost later when the view was allowed to dominate the face, and quality suffered in the interests of mass-production.

Naturally, there are myriad exceptions to these observations, such as some marvellous multicoloured advertising cards and the many wonderful issues for the 1908 Visit of America's Great White Fleet. Cards evoking the travails of the Great War and man's conquest of heavier-than-air flight, and so on.



These cards must all be absent from my collection. However, my compensation is in owning many of the earliest Australian PPCs, and others featuring the Boer War or commemorating Federation and the opening of our first Parliament House. (As yet, nothing of our troops in China during the Boxer Rebellion.)

The majority of our early cards fall under the heading "topographical". They feature streetscapes, individual buildings, rural views, and scenes of natural beauty. This depiction of how and where our forebears lived helped promote the development of the Australian tourism industry. Other cards fall into various "subject" or "thematic" categories. These include the depiction of Aborigines (sometimes with unsavoury racist overtones), the Theatre, Ships, Native Animals, Artist Cards, Humour, and so on.



Even at this early stage, "real photo" (RP) cards were a thing. [Sidebar: they should not be confused with mass-produced "photo-mechanical" cards that have a photographic appearance but are printed from plates to which the photographic images have been transferred.]. Most RPs are rather amateurish, which gives them a quaint charm. They were

usually produced in very small numbers, resulting in most of them being extremely elusive. Yet, lack of demand, ensures that they remain inexpensive.

In summing up, I collect postcards for the following reasons:

1. they provide a direct link with what life was like as our new nation stepped boldly into the 20th century;
2. being so much larger than postage stamps, they are highly visual and provide stimulation of the senses;
3. I embrace the challenge of discovering the stories behind the cards; and
4. for historical artefacts that are more than 120 years old, they are almost absurdly cheap!

My postcard journey has been quite short. There is still so much I need to learn. However, even as a novice, I feel the importance of promoting this marvellous medium to the thousands of collectors in other fields who are yet to encounter the delightful World of Postcards.

Won't you join me?

Gary Watson qualified as a lawyer but has been a professional philatelist since 1979. He has an international reputation as an auctioneer in his own name, and also with Macray Watson Auctions, Premier Philately, Prestige Philately and, since 2018, Abacus Auctions. He has been an avid collector since the age of four. He has had more than 100 articles about numerous philatelic subjects published in Australia and in many other countries. His series 'A Few of My Favourite Things' has been running for more than five years in 'Philately from Australia', the journal of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. Gary is an accredited National judge. Four of his exhibits have been awarded Gold or Large Gold medals. 46 years after turning his hobby into his profession, he remains as passionate as ever about the benefits of being a collector. He is also tirelessly enthusiastic about the future for the hobby and the philatelic profession.

DENMARK ENDS POSTAL DELIVERIES

After more than 170 years of continuous postal history, Denmark is approaching a decisive break with its letter-mail tradition. PostNord Denmark has confirmed that it will deliver its final letter at the end of 2025, a decision that carries far-reaching implications for collectors. What began in 1851 with Denmark's first postage stamps and the introduction of street mailboxes now appears to be reaching a formal conclusion. On March 6, 2025, PostNord announced that letter deliveries in Denmark will cease at year's end. The move follows the expiration of Denmark's universal postal service obligation under the Postal Act that took effect on Jan. 1, 2024. PostNord has made clear that it intends to focus on parcel services, reflecting the long-term decline of traditional correspondence. What remains unresolved is whether another operator might assume responsibility for international letter mail after PostNord's withdrawal. In theory, this could allow stamps to continue to be issued under a different authority. In practice, such an outcome appears unlikely, and there is little indication that PostNord itself will remain an issuing authority once letter services end. Should no successor emerge, Denmark would effectively become a "dead country" in philatelic terms. Existing stamps would remain collectible, but no new issues would be produced. For many collectors, the direction of travel became apparent in early 2024. Stamps issued before Jan. 1 of that year were invalidated for domestic mail,

though they remain valid for international use. The decision marked a sharp departure from long-standing practice and underlined how quickly Denmark was moving away from letter postage. With hindsight, it also foreshadowed the announcement that has now placed an end date on letter delivery itself. Attention has therefore turned to PostNord Denmark's 2025 year pack, released on Sept. 12. If Denmark ceases issuing stamps after 2025, this annual collection may assume exceptional importance. Rather than being simply another year set, it could represent the final official output of a stamp program that has run continuously since the mid-19th century. Final issues of established postal administrations occupy a distinctive place in philately. If confirmed as the last, the 2025 year pack will stand as a marker of transition rather than decline, closing a national series that began in 1851. That sense of closure is particularly evident in a Dec. 31, 2025, last-day cover being offered for international mail. The cover is produced in cooperation with PostNord, and Nordfrim



“The cover is sent out and cancelled by PostNord on the last day of service, and with the reference to the first stamps issued in Denmark, this is a sad but perfect circle,” said StampWorld ApS, a Danish company that runs the online Stampworld.com stamp collecting community, in an email announcing the sale. when announcing the offering. The cover is franked with one of two stamps issued Sept. 12 that reproduce Denmark's first two stamps from 1851 (Facit 1 and 2). A special last-day PostNord cancellation ties the stamp to the envelope. Customers cannot choose which of the two designs is used, and the address is handwritten. Orders are limited to one cover per order, though multiple orders are permitted, and addresses must be outside Denmark. The cover is not available through online checkout, underscoring its character as a commemorative rather than a routine postal product.

If Danish stamp issuance does indeed end with 2025, the decision to conclude with reproductions of the 1851 originals will appear carefully considered, closing the circle between first issue and last day of service.

Several deadlines are now fixed and will matter to collectors and postal historians alike:

- From 2026 onward, Danish postage stamps are no longer valid.
- Unused stamps issued in 2024 and 2025 may be refunded between Jan. 2 and June 30, 2026.

· While supplies last, Danish stamps remain available through Nordfrim's online sales.

Alongside stamps and covers, Denmark's iconic red street mailbox has taken on new significance. Introduced at the same time as postage stamps in 1851 and standardised in red from 1860, the mailbox has long been a defining feature of the Danish streetscape. The characteristic curved-top design adopted in 1876, bearing the crowned post horn, became a national symbol. The red colour is often attributed to postal official Louis Pio. As part of the wind-down of letter services, PostNord dismantled around 1,500 mailboxes nationwide. Of these, 1,200 were donated to Danmarks Indsamling for resale in support of charitable causes. A total of 1,000 mailboxes were offered for fixed-price sale online via føtex.dk on Dec. 15, 2025, with a further 200, including artist-decorated examples and boxes from notable locations, reserved for auction in January 2026. Prices ranged from 1,500 to 2,000 kroner depending on condition, and all proceeds went directly to charity. Demand proved intense, and the first batch of mailboxes have now sold out. For philatelists, these boxes represent more than nostalgic curios. They are physical artefacts of the same postal system that produced Denmark's stamps for more than a century and a half, and they will likely find their place alongside final issues and last-day covers in future collections and exhibits.

If no new issuing authority emerges after 2025, Denmark's postal narrative will conclude almost exactly where it began, with the imagery of the 1851 first issues revisited on stamps cancelled on the last day of service. Few countries have arrived at such a symmetrical ending.



BRIGHTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY PROGRAM 2026

Feb	4	Stamp& Cover Forum 2.00pm	
	7	Auction 1.00pm	
	10	Phil: One Frame Exhibits 7.15	
	10	Display: The Queen's Man 8.15	E
	17	Daytime meeting 10.00 am	D,E
	24	Auction 7.00pm	
March	4	Stamp& Cover Forum 2.00pm	
	7	Auction 1.00pm	
	10	Phil: Creating a Display 7.15pm	
	10	Display: Early Postcards of Australia 8.15pm	E
	17	Daytime meeting 10.00 am	D,E
	24	Auction 7.00pm	
	31	Questions About Stamp Collecting 2.00pm	
April	1	Stamp& Cover Forum 2.00pm	
	4	Auction 1.00pm	
	14	Phil: Members' Favourite Items 7.15pm	
	14	One-Frame Competition 8.00pm	E
	21	Daytime meeting 10.00 am	D,E
	28	Auction 7.00pm	
May	2	Auction 1.00pm	
	5	Stamp & Cover Forum 2.00pm	
	12	Phil: Members' Favourite Items	
	12	Display: Japanese Conquest and Defeat 8.15pm	E
	19	Daytime meeting 10.00 am	D,E
	26	Auction 7.00pm	
	30	Coin & Banknote Auction 7.00 pm	

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