

## Bulletin

Volume 60

No. 3

August 2020



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

Phone: (03) 9530 6760

**D**ear Members

I retired some eight years ago, but I have only started to *feel retired* in the last three months, due to the progressive lockdown in Melbourne. Most of you live in Victoria, so you will know what I mean. As I write in the middle of August, it will be at least another month before our level of lockdown decreases and no one knows how long before we can resume meetings at Bri Phil. We have, reluctantly, decided to postpone our *Gala Anniversary Exhibition* until October 2020. We have also been forced to cancel the *November Catalogued Auction*. It is possible we may have an auction on that first Saturday, but *not* Catalogued.

So I have little to write about! At least I just received two auction catalogues in the mail; they will keep me out of mischief for a little while. I have also been sorting out material to go to auction. I have a tendency to buy an auction lot which contains material I want now, and then be rather slow to decide that I should part with the rest! At least we circulated two auctions to you, from Warragul and W.A. I hope you found them of some interest.

I expect you have also taken the opportunity to work on your collection and trim the unwanted material.

Your Committee has been meeting regularly by Zoom, **but we do not know when our activities can re-commence**. 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.

Our AGM will still be held, by Zoom, on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The first part will be for Committee Members. Its reports and motions will then be sent to all of you by email (or the Website, if you do not receive email) and you will be invited to agree/ disagree with the motions and ask any questions that you have. Fuller details of this year's unusual AGM follow later in the Bulletin.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you all again later in the year. I wish you good health and interesting times, doing those things you do not usually get time for.

Best wishes

*Ian Sadler*, President

## New Members

Please extend a friendly welcome to the following new members:

Russell Brewer – Brighton

Peter Panoutsos - Carnegie

## Albums closed

Royce Hutcheon – a member since 1978

Marjorie Crawford – a member since 1999

(See tributes on Page 4)

## Annual General Meeting

Due to the Corona Virus lockdown, the Annual General Meeting of Brighton Philatelic Society Incorporated will be held in two stages:

- 1) The Executive and Committee members (only) will hold a formal meeting by Zoom Tuesday 8th September 2020 at BRI-PHIL House, 80 Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale, starting at 7.30 PM. The Agenda below will be followed and draft motions passed.
- 2) Minutes of the AGM and Draft Motions will be circulated to all Members by Email and the Website. Members will be invited to accept/ deny the motions or raise any queries which they have. If necessary, the Minutes will be amended.

### AGM Agenda items will include:

Minutes: Confirmation of the Minutes of the last AGM.

Reports: President, Treasurer and Sales Branch Convenor.

Elections: Election of the Executive and Committee of Management.

Auditor: Nomination and appointment of an auditor.

***Nominations for the committee of management:*** All committee of management positions fall vacant. Due to the peculiar situation, all incumbents offer themselves for re-election.

All members of the Society may nominate candidates for election, subject to the notes below, on the interleaved nomination form. Nominations must be forwarded to the Secretary by 1st September 2020.

The committee meets monthly from February to December on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, commencing at 7.30 pm.

### The positions are:

#### *Executive Officers*

President (Note 1)	Vice President (Note 2)	Treasurer	Secretary
-----------------------	----------------------------	-----------	-----------

*Ordinary Members*

Librarian	Building Services/ Security Superintendent	Sales Branch Convenor
Bulletin Editor	Public Relations Officer	Meeting & Education Coordinator
Membership Secretary	Web Loader	Immediate Past President

The Committee is also empowered to establish other positions as required.

**Notes on eligibility for positions:**

1. The position of President may be held by a former President or Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary or Exchange Superintendent who has held such a position for at least 12 months.
2. It is usual for the Vice President to advance to the office of President.

**Nomination Form for Committee of Management**

We wish to nominate

.....

for a position on the Committee of Management.

Officer: (state position).....

Ordinary Member:.....

Proposer:.....

Secunder:.....

I hereby nominate for the above position/s:

Signed:.....

Dated: the .....day of .....2020

This Nomination Form should be forwarded to the Secretary by: 1 September 2020 (80 Gardenvale Rd Gardenvale 3185).

## Form of Appointment of Proxy

I,..... of .....

being a financial member of the Brighton Philatelic Society Incorporated hereby appoint:

.....of .....

being a member of that incorporated Society, as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held on 8 September 2020. My proxy is authorised to vote in favour of/ against (delete as appropriate) the resolution Rule 30(1) Election of Officers.

### Instruction to Proxy:

Dated the .....day of .....2020

Signature:.....

Name (in block letters): .....

This Proxy Form should be forwarded to the Secretary by: 1 September 2020 (80 Gardenvale Rd Gardenvale 3185).

## Thanks Royce !

Royce Hutcheon who has been a BPS member since 1978 passed away on August 12 aged 90. For many years he was an active member of the club and attended most meetings. In 1986 John Rennie was our President and suggested to the committee that the club should have an Honour Board to recognize the contributions made by our various office-bearers. Initial quotes were around \$3,000. Royce Hutcheon approached the Essendon Philatelic Society of which he was a member and persuaded them to donate an old honour board which they were not using. Those names were erased and the board refurbished and it now has pride of place on our front wall behind the podium.

Long-term members will remember Royce and we will always appreciate his very generous gesture to provide us with this honour board.

## Vale Marjorie Crawford

Sadly Marjorie passed away in the middle of August after a very long battle with cancer. Bri Phil Members will remember her as an enthusiastic bidder at our auctions, especially when flightless birds were on offer. In fact she had wide thematic interests which have been displayed many times.

Marjorie was also a Council Member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria and put in countless hours of work in its library.

We remember Marjorie with sadness and sympathy for her family and friends.

Ian Sadler, *President*

## Library News

The pandemic lockdown has meant that the library stocktake has not yet been completed. However, all uncatalogued books have now been labelled and catalogued. The last books of the Chapman donation are now all in the library's catalogue and will be on the shelves soon after the lockdown is lifted. A new library catalogue is in preparation in pdf format and will be made available on the Society's web site, and print copies will be available in the library at the next meeting.

Ray Price, *Librarian*

## BPS Memberships

BPS memberships, which are crucial to funding our club activities, were due on 1st July 2020. All members should have received a renewal notification either via email or mail. A big thanks to those who have already paid their memberships for the 2020/21 year. For those who have not yet paid, you can pay the following ways:

1. Payment can be made directly to the Society's bank account. Details are:

Bendigo Bank - Brighton Philatelic Society Inc Account  
BSB 633 000 Account No. 1404 76508

Please **use your name** as a transaction reference so that we can identify your payment on our bank statement.

2/ Cheques can be forwarded to:

The Membership Officer  
Brighton Philatelic Society Inc  
PO Box 8062  
NORTH ROAD LPO  
BRIGHTON EAST VIC 3187

Deborah Harms, *Membership Officer*

## STAMP TIP: STAMP VARIETY? OR ERROR? OR FREAK? OR ODDITY?

I get a lot of inquiries from clients and others who have found a stamp that is different from the normal. Some folks are very circumspect about it and ask questions. Others say that they have found a rare stamp and want to know how much I am going to pay them for it. (Hint: Usually their stamp is completely within the range of normal and the value would be 10 cents, if the person had ten of them). However, it is good to find out about what you have.

Some terminology, at least as I define these things:

**Variety:** This can be both a general and a specific term. A one-off variation that does not repeat from one sheet to the next may still be called a "variety", but it may more correctly be described as an "oddity". Often more completely termed "constant variety", these are usually "plate" or "cliche" variety stamps which will typically appear in the same spot in

every (printer sized) sheet. However, you could also have a perforation variety (such as a bent perforator tooth or a worn-out perforator device that makes rough perforations). The key to all this is that the difference is usually either repeatable or exists in some amount of quantity, even if not constant over the entire production. Varieties are certainly collectible by specialists and because they exist in some quantity, they often have specific catalogue values.

**Error:** Usually an item with a major production fault or omission, such as an inverted colour, a wrong colour, a missing colour, completely missing perforations, etc.

**Freak:** Usually an item that is visibly striking, such as a paper fold-over causing partially missing printing or perforations that might be partially missing or at an angle, etc. These are invariably one-time production problems. Sure, more than one sheet of a stamp issue could have a fold-over, but each one will be slightly different. The value of freaks is in the eye of beholder. Usually the owner thinks they should be a lot more valuable than the potential buyer, but the freakier they look (and subject to supply and demand), the greater the value.

**Oddity:** Typically I consider these to be NON-constant varieties. For example, a bit of trash on the printing plate causing a spot (or absence) of colour. Or in the case of engraved stamps, a sheet where the wiping blade (that removed excess ink from the surface of the plate) was not doing its job, thus the whole sheet has a coloured cast in the areas that should not be printed. In this arena, scale matters; a tiny 2 mm pre-printing paper fold might be termed an oddity, while a 20 mm pre-printing paper fold might be called a freak because it is so much more obvious. The eye of the beholder controls the price (as always), but typically oddities have very limited additional value. Do you have any of these unusual items hiding in your collection? You probably do! Every collector who has been at it a while has a few "what the heck is this" items. Don't just assume that what you have must be common (even though whenever I find something it turns out to be common). Find a specialist in the stamps of that country and ask for their assistance. Most will be delighted to help you.

[This stamp tip provided by Jay Smith, a stamp dealer specialising in Scandinavia, from Snow Camp, North Carolina]

## **Interview with Bulletin Editor John McKay**

As readers will know, I often approach members asking them to share with us stories about their collections and collecting interests. One member whom I talked to recently said "you have been editor now for several years and why can't you tell us about yourself". So, with a little bit of self-indulgence, today I am going to interview myself!

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

**John:** Like most children of my generation I started collecting very early. Four of my uncles had served in World War Two so I inherited various stamps they had sent on letters to my grandmother. After I graduated I was fortunate enough to travel very widely and wherever I went I collected some of the local stamps, a habit that has lasted a lifetime - so philately has been my constant companion.

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

**John:** My first collecting interest was in Africa, especially Sierra Leone and Tanzania, where I lived for several years, and I still collect these countries. But my major interest

now is in Sweden, where I have also spent a lot of time. I fell in love first with Sweden's beautifully engraved stamps and now have a pretty comprehensive collection, including varieties and booklets. But Swedish philatelists have led the way in broadening our hobby by insisting that the most satisfying collections are ones that tell a story through stamps, and through covers in particular. I became interested in the Swedish policy of neutrality that has existed since 1814, and now have a very large collection of covers around this theme. Part of this story relates to the postal routes used for letters to and from Sweden during both World Wars, and this has inevitably led to a study of censorship, which I find fascinating. I have not been particularly interested in exhibiting my collection, although I have displayed various parts of it at BPS on several occasions. Rather, I have put my efforts into preparing articles for the specialist philatelic magazines. I have recently completed an 8-part series on Swedish neutrality for *Scandinavian Contact*, the journal of the Scandinavian Philatelic Society, and an earlier piece for them was awarded the Norden Prize for the best article on Scandinavian Philately in 2014. I have also published in *The Posthorn*, the journal of the Scandinavian Collectors Club of the US, and in the *Bulletin of the Civil Censorship Study Group*. Ian Sadler keeps encouraging me to enter the world of exhibiting, and I certainly have the material to do that, but what I lack is time because I still do enjoy writing about stamps.

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

**John:** I was born in Lincolnshire in eastern England and was a student at the University of Durham. My early interest in stamps was obviously important in developing a fascination for places and other countries because I chose to read geography! I was then awarded a scholarship by the Worship Company of Goldsmiths in London, a mediaeval guild with many centuries of links with Africa, to undertake postgraduate research in Sierra Leone. I then spent two years with the African Studies Centre at the University of Liverpool before returning to Africa at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. I have continued to work on Africa ever since, most recently on a study funded by Australian Aid to develop strategies for the diversification of the Zambian economy. So I have been studying Africa now for some 53 years and worked in 17 different African countries. After a year at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio I moved to Monash University, where I worked for 32 years. There I was encouraged to also develop an interest in developments in Asia, and for several years I was Professor of Asian Studies and head of the Monash Asia Institute. Since leaving Monash I have been an Honorary Professor at Deakin University and continue to write about both Africa and Asia, leaving far too little time for my philatelic interests!

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

**John:** Become a real philatelist not just a collector! If you put in the research time around your area of interest you will find it much more rewarding than just filling empty spaces in a printed album. Also, try collecting covers and you will find a world of endless fascination - not just the stamps on the envelope, nor the routes taken by the letter and the postage rate paid, but also stories about the sender and the receiver, and perhaps the censorship on the way.