



Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter VIEWS FROM NOBBYS

Newcastle Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 34, JESMOND NSW 2299
Website : www.philas.org.au/newcastle

NOVEMBER, 2010 : Newsletter No. 155 : EDITOR: Ron Davis

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR SOCIETY

THE NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETS 7.30pm SECOND THURSDAY of EACH MONTH
MAYFIELD EX-SERVICES CLUB, 2nd FLOOR MEETING ROOM, HANBURY STREET , MAYFIELD
VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

DATES	DETAILS
Thurs 11 November '10	Display by Howard Bridgman - "UNITED STATES TO 1935"
Wed 17 November 2010	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, - Display by Paul Thomas "POT POURRI INCLUDING RED CROSS"
Sun 21 November 2010	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
Thurs 9 December '10	Display by Greg Laidler - "SARAJEVO TO VERSAILLES"
Friday 10 December '10	NPS CHRISTMAS PARTY, Keith & Pamela Kestel's place, 53 Cressington Way, Wallsend (between Murnin St. and Elermore Parade), 6 p.m.
Mon 13 December '10	Visit MAITLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY (phone John Moore 4956 8931)
Sun 19 December '10	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
DECEMBER	NO Newcastle Daytime Meeting
Thurs 13 January 2011	Members' Activity - "UP TO 6 PAGES/ITEMS OF LOCAL PHILATELIC INTEREST"
Sun 16 January 2011	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
Wed 19 January 2011	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, - Display by John Moore "GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, TUVALU AND KIRIBATI"
Thurs 10 February 2011	Display by Russell Goddard - "HIS CHOICE"
Wed 16 February 2011	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, - Display by Warren Oliver "THE COLONY OF N.S.W. - EARLY ISSUES"
Sun 20 February 2011	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
Thurs 24 February 2011	STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 4943 5639)
Thurs 10 March 2011	Display by Ron Davis - "AALBORG TO ZANTE - EUROPE'S FORGOTTEN COUNTRIES"

- THE SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS -

It seems no time since I submitted my snippets for the August edition of this Newsletter, and now three months later it is time again! The past three months for me has been very busy, with much of this time spent traveling around this great country of ours. During this time I have had two trips to Adelaide and finally managed to the 'big' around Australia trip which took me across the Nullabor, up the west coast of Western Australia, across to Katherine and then back home through the Red Centre, which at the moment is actually very green. Australia is sure a land of contrasts, whilst the southern part of Western Australia was unusually dry for this time of year, the whole of the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western New South Wales is having the wettest period in many years, if not in decades.

During August, ADELAIDE hosted a part national philatelic exhibition with a number of Newcastle Philatelic Society members exhibiting. Congratulations are extended to - BERNARD DOHERTY who scored Gold first time up with his Australian Parcel Post exhibit; KEVIN DWYER also scored Gold with ANARE - The First 50 Years 1947-1997; JOHN PUGSLEY Large Vermeil for The Boer War 1899-1902 POW, Internee and Concentration Camp Mail, which was also the first time this has been exhibited; KIM DWYER Silver Bronze for Amazing Antarctica, and MYSELF a Vermeil for Australian Registered Mail rates.

Members are reminded of our JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING activity where members are invited to bring along up to 6 pages/items of LOCAL philatelic interest. I am sure many of you have postal markings, photos, newspaper clippings etc. to bring along that will make this a most interesting night.

Those attending our monthly meetings will be aware that we have an 'IMPROMPTU' DISPLAY where one or two members display and talk about a philatelic item of interest. We are always looking for displayers so if you are interested, please let me know, either at one of our meetings or by email moore.john@optusnet.com.au.

- John Moore, Secretary -

A PIECE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TAKE CARE OF YOUR STAMPS. To a serious collector, that seems a matter of course, because one knows that if certain things are not done, the old enemies of dust, rust and dirt will soon take their toll.

It's strange to consider that when stamps were first printed, one of the prime considerations was how to guard against forgery. The background of course was the invention of coins, then paper money, and, lastly postage stamps.

Again, when issues of stamps were printed and duly cancelled, it often meant that the stamps were almost obliterated by the postmark. The reason behind it was that the stamps could not be used again. The image, usually a reigning monarch, from Queen Victoria onwards, was often so defaced that you could barely see the image of the queen.

Collectors want the best stamps available, preferably mint unused, or, if they are used, then the best copy available. In this respect stamps are like people.

A sad part of our Colonial history was what happened to the penal colony in Port Arthur, Tasmania. A "breakthrough" was made in penal reform, for it was deemed appropriate to have one prisoner per cell.

However, this reform meant that to overcome the evil influences of the past, those tendencies had to be obliterated like cancelling an old stamp. So, special provisions were made so no contact could be made with fellow prisoners. This meant that elaborate isolation rules were designed to make that possible.

It seemed a good idea at the time. But it simply did not work. After a comparatively short time most prisoners went stark raving mad. The personality of the prisoner was completely defaced, obliterated.

This is the exact opposite of what life and living was meant to be, for there is an interesting sentence from the book of Genesis; "So God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them" (Gen 1; 27).

Take care of your stamps. Take care of your life.

- Rev Keith R Kestel, President.

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2009 -2010

Time flies, or, as the Romans expressed it : 'tempus fugit'. It is hard to believe that another stamp year has passed by. It has gone so quickly.

I am always amazed with the commitment of the executive and the committee for all the work that it has done and continues to do. To note some examples, the Newcastle Mini-Expo 2010. Without exception, members turned up as rostered to assist in the presentation of this event. Whilst some individuals were singled out for special mention, it was very much a team effort.

The committee decided that the accumulated library the Society has had for many years was gathering dust and would only be useful if : (1) there was a secure place for it to be in storage, and (2) that a lot of work needed to be done in culling texts/publications that were no longer needed (and) if it was deemed to be useful, then extra work would be required for it to be suitably sorted and catalogued..

As this whole process needed time and space, the committee rightly decided to assist other interested bodies and made this material available to them on a "first in - first served" basis. The task was immense and it is to the credit of the Secretary, John Moore, that this whole project has now been successfully completed.

During the year both the normal meeting and Wednesday day-time meetings have been held regularly with good attendances. The Society has always had outstanding speakers, but this year they have been exceptional. A highlight has been the innovative impromptu 'two minutes talks' before the main presentation.

This year the Annual Competition received ten entries. The standard was high in all categories, with two Beginners (6 pages), one Intermediate (10 pages) and seven Experienced, one Frame (15 pages).

To my colleagues, our Treasurer Don Rutherford, who always manages to keep the books in an orderly fashion with grace and humour, and, to our Secretary John Moore who has worked tirelessly, and, when John Moore is unavailable, to the Assistant Secretary, Bernard Doherty, we express our grateful thanks.

To the members whose support and encouragement I have valued greatly and for the privilege of being President during the past twelve months - I thank you

Keith Kestel, President 2009-2010

*** EARTH is the only planet not named after a god.

*** In 1895, when there were only FOUR petrol-powered vehicles in the United States, two of them collided in Saint Louis !
Both drivers were seriously injured

ANNUAL COMPETITION, 12th AUGUST 2010

There were a total of ten entries in this year's Annual Competition – two in the 'Beginners' category, one in the 'Intermediate' Section and seven in the 'Experienced' Section.



Although both the 'BEGINNERS' entrants have been philatelists for many years, neither had previously won a Newcastle Philatelic Society competition – the criterion for this 6-pages Section :

HOWARD BRIDGMAN's rather academic "*Weather*" entry included stamps showing Clouds, Fog, Measuring the Weather – Precipitation, Rain and Snow, and Snow and Ice (all connected with Howard's university work!).

GREG LAIDLER concentrated on a "*Study of the Fungus Flaw of the \$2 'Gums of the Far North' Australian issue*" – something which many of the viewers didn't know existed. Very well presented, Greg's entry gained First Place in this popular-vote Section.

GREG LAIDLER also had the only entry in the 10-pages 'INTERMEDIATE' Section – "*The Austrian Plebiscites 1920*". A little known topic, the display, which gained a SILVER award, included material from the plebiscite in Carinthia on 10th October 1920, and that in Salzburg on 29th May 1921.

The entries in the 15-pages 'EXPERIENCED' Section were of a particularly high standard, and, strangely, didn't include many Australian issues of stamps.

RUSSELL GODDARD did a study of the Antarctic supply ship "*Aurora Australis*", built here in Newcastle, and its operations in Antarctica. He gained a SILVER-BRONZE award.

Also gaining a SILVER-BRONZE award was SANDRA BAKER's "*Notable World Heritage Sites of Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic Complexes found in South East Asia Spanning 1000 Years of Cultural History*". Her entry displayed ancient buildings in India, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and the Preah Khan complex in Cambodia.

RON DAVIS's entry, winning SILVER, was "*10 Years of Independence in the Baltic States of Lithuania and Latvia, 1918-1928*" – a turbulent period following Independence, which involved occupations of Lithuania by Russia and Poland.



CAROL DAVIS gained a SILVER award for her "*War and Peace*". Carol commented that she could find lots of material depicting 'War', but not all that much about 'Peace' ! So she included a photo of the famous 'Dancing Man' \$1 coin !

A SILVER award was also granted to RON DAVIS for his second entry – "*A Study of the Horn of Africa from 1892*". It included issues from Obock, Eritrea, French Somali Coast, the French Territory of the Afars and the Issas, Djibouti, Somalia, and Ethiopia (from which some people think the Australian Aborigine originated 100,000 or so years ago).

DON CATTERALL had an unusual entry – "*The Impressed Duty Stamps of N.S.W.*" These 'stamps', actually embossings on what were mostly legal documents, ranged from 1902 to 1966, and Don clarified many of them with rubbings of the impressions. He gained a VERMEIL award, and came second in this Competition.



The WINNER of this Competition was JOHN PUGSLEY, with his entry "*British Forces in Egypt, 1932-1941*", which gained John a GOLD award. Displaying by date the Seals and Army Post stamps from this period, some quite rare material included the George V Silver Jubilee Seal of 6th May 1935 – the most difficult of all the GV Silver Jubilee issues to find, especially on cover, shown here.



R.D.



P13½ x 14



LETTER Seal

Special Xmas Seal

THE SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010 : 12th August 2010

Currently the Society has 115 members, a slight decrease of 3 over the previous year. During the year attendance at the monthly meetings has been 26, which compares favorably with recent years. The regular Auction nights as well as the annual Swap and Sale Night have been attracting good attendance. Thanks go to convener Don Catterall for his efforts in promoting both of these activities.

One of the highlights of the year was the '**100 Years of Stamps' Exhibition** that was held over two successive weekends during February 2010 at Sandra Baker's art studio. Thanks are extended to all those involved who made this such a success in attracting over 200 visitors.

Ron Davis has continued to convene the **Daytime meetings**, attracting a regular group of attendees. Thanks are extended Sandra Baker for hosting these meetings, as well as our committee meetings, at her art studio.

The **2009 Christmas party** was hosted by Keith and Pam Kestel at their residence with those present having an enjoyable time.

The **Newsletter** which continues to be edited by Ron Davis is now available to members in electronic form. This aspect, which has been developed by Bernard Doherty, now allows members to receive their copies earlier and as well in colour.

Stephen Morris continues his efforts in attracting **youth** to stamp collecting with limited participation. During the year the Newlake youth group ceased.

A major task of mine over the past few years has been the dispersal of material held by **our library**. I can report that this has been completed, with the remaining items donated to the University of Newcastle for a future book sale.

During the year a number of members displayed their **collections** to members of other clubs, as well as participating in various Exhibitions in Australia and overseas.

The **Doron Trophy** was again keenly contested with seven society members being eligible, the winner being John Hill with his Cocos Islands display.

The annual **Popular Choice Competition** held at the April meeting was Something Philatelic starting with the letter "S". There were thirteen entries with the winner being Carol Davis – 'Ships of the Desert'

Two **novice** entries were received in the **Annual Competition**, held in August, with Greg Laidler's entry being voted by popular choice as the winner of this section.

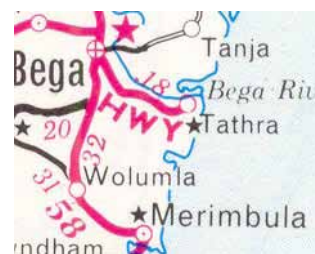
In the **Annual Competition**, there was one entry in the Intermediate section and seven entries in the Experienced section. These were judged by Ed. Burnard, Keith Kestel and Bernard Doherty. The winner of the Experienced section was John Pugsley with his entry "Egypt".

In closing, I wish to say a particular thank you to Don Rutherford and Kevin Simkus for the written financial reports they table, and to Bernard Doherty for filling in for me on a number of occasions when I was absent due to family and personal illness.

John Moore, Secretary, 12th August 2010



In the 1920s, the law stated that a hotel could only sell drinks on a Sunday to a 'genuine traveller' - one who was at least 10 miles from home. About this time it was decided to straighten the existing 12 miles of road that wound through the farmland between Bega and Tathra. But when the plans were completed for a new, straighter road, it was discovered that the Tathra Hotel would be less than 10 miles from Bega ! The road plans were quickly adjusted until once again the Tathra Hotel was a safe 10 miles from the town of Bega.



AUSTRALIAN QEII COMMEMORATIVE PRE-DECIMAL ISSUES

- DISPLAY BY ARTHUR GRAY, SYDNEY, 9th SEPTEMBER 2010

Arthur Gray is the N.S.W. Philatelic Development Council, Philatelic Development Officer. He started collecting at the age of 12 - he had a newspaper run then, and he collected manure from a local bakery - the money he made went into stamps.

Arthur's display started from the Pan-Pacific Jamboree Boy Scout commemorative issue of 19th November 1952, and ended with the issues in 1963. But if we thought that all we were going to see was STAMPS, then we were in for a surprise !! This display had won a Large Gold award in the 2010 Canberra Exhibition.

We saw Publicity Cards, which were issued to embassies, consulates and trade commissioners in small numbers, heralding the issue of new Australian stamps - these were phased out in 1975-1976. We saw Die Proofs and backstamped Publicity Photos which the Post Office used to send to newspapers for publicity of new issues, about every three months. We saw a 1954 3½d Royal Visit Publicity Card with the "Curved Lines" retouch - only 6 of these are known! Also an official PMG's Department 1954 Royal Visit First Day Cover.

Of the Australian stamp issues for the 1956 Olympic Games, we saw the original early designs, black & whites of the development of the 4d. design, colour separation proofs of the 1/- design (for parcel rates) and of the 2/- design (for postage overseas), and die proofs of an Olympic Games First Day CARD.



AND we saw several copies of the UNISSUED 3½d Olympics denomination - a change in postal rates stopped its issue, and the 4d. took its place.

And Arthur had a virtually complete collection of Missing Colour errors starting with the 1955 YMCA issue.

A mind-boggling display ! If you're a collector of Australia and you weren't there, you would be sorry you missed it !!

R.D.

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

Peanuts and Monkeynuts

Anything considered of trifling importance or little value is often described as 'peanuts'. It is a most ill-chosen comparison. Tests made by the University of Georgia, USA, to ascertain the nutritional significance of the peanut, proved its tremendous food value. Half a kilo of peanut butter was equal to 1½ kilo of steak, four litres of milk or thirty-two eggs.

George Washington Carver, son of slave parents, devoted most of his life to the research of the peanut. He was able to show its extraordinary usefulness : how it could serve as the source of more than 300 different products! His discovery was historical, as it revolutionized the entire American south. A unique museum, dedicated to Carver and the peanut, is now part of the 'black' Tuskegee University, in Alabama U.S.A..

There is yet another fallacy about the peanut. It is misnamed. The peanut, colloquially also known as monkey or groundnut, is NOT a nut. It belongs to the legume family and is a PEA! Much more correct therefore is its African description as "goober pea".

Coffee Beans - Coffee beans are not beans, but SEEDS.

The misnomer was the result of their beanlike shape.

Chocolate - No one realises the true meaning of 'chocolate'. In spite of its sweetness, its name - from the Aztec *xococ* and *atl* - means 'bitter water'. It was a drink brewed and popularized by the Mayas and Aztecs, who in its preparation mixed crushed cocoa beans and ground maize-corn, with a little water. They then flavoured the 'potion' with honey, fragrant herbs and chilli. It was the latter that gave the drink its bitter taste, so completely different from that of our present-day chocolate, and responsible for its now so inappropriate name !

The "Newcastle Herald". In July, 1962.

The stamp of success

A woman who has been collecting stamps for only six years is the new president of the Newcastle Philatelic Society.

She is Mrs. Eileen Cox, of Elizabeth St., Tighe's Hill.

Mrs. Cox is the second woman to hold the presidency in the society's 44 years' history.

She has a fine collection of South African stamps which fills 16 albums.

The society is one of Newcastle's oldest and it has members in Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland.

MRS. COX
Honored after six years of stamp collecting.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2009 - 2010**General Account**

With the Newcastle Permanent Building Society, Charlestown - Cheque Account

Opening Balance 1-7-2009 : \$3616-18

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Subscriptions	759-55	Room Rent	660-00
Interest Insurance a/c	1869-59	Insurance	125-00
Commissions & Sale by Tender	878-40	Stamp Purchase	74-65
Sundries	77-50	Affiliation Fees	202-50
		Expenses	753-78
		Australian Tax Office	291-60
		Bank Fees	17-00
		Donations	600-00
		Transfer to Insurance Fund	1000-00
		Total Sundries	276-50
		Refund	19-80
TOTAL	\$3574-31	TOTAL	\$4020-83

Leaving a Closing Balance 30-6-2010 : \$3169-66

Don Rutherford, Treasurer, 12th August 2010**FREE ADVERTISEMENTS !!****November, 2010**

For our members : Phone RON DAVIS on 4951 7878 if you have something you want to buy, or swap, or sell.

WANTED:SANDRA BAKER - phone 4956 4515, issues showing "Pre-history"- early man, fossils, cave paintings, etc.

There are several from China and from the Middle East that I need - Jordon, Israel, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan

KEVIN SIMKUS - ph. 4951 1597: Wanted - MORE members to put their names down on the CIRCUIT LISTS to BUY stamps! Just take out the stamps you want from the circuit book, pass it on to the next person, & send the money to me.JOHN BASSFORD - phone 4952 5716: Anything from "unusual countries" and "dead countries".DAVID PICKERING, phone 4953 2735 - Locomotives on stamps & Post Cards, and ALL Australian 'Specimens' Overprints.REX HILL, phone 4957 0176 - pre printed pages for albums, Great Britain from 1840, British Commonwealth, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, early Norfolk Island, early Cocos Island.DON CATTERALL - phone 4943 5639: old postcards, and AUSTRALIAN Revenue and Railway Parcel stamps.CHRIS ASHHURST-SMITH - phone 4957 0622: N.S.W. POSTMARKS, with Circular Date Stamps; and George V or VI Australian.HOWARD BRIDGMAN - phone 49502 325 : Early U.S.A. covers wanted, pre-1930.**FOR SALE:**KEVIN SIMKUS - phone 4951 1597: Stamp hinges \$5 a large packet (1000). Hard to get anywhere else!! Ideal for mounting stamps for sale on circuit book pages. Proceeds to Philatelic Society funds.**Penicillin – for those “Medicine” collectors :**

Penicillin was discovered by Sir Alexander Fleming through what could be termed an accident. Working at the bacteriological laboratory of St Mary's Hospital, London, he was studying a problem far removed from anything connected with the future drug. A culture of staphylococcus germs he was growing in his investigation somehow became contaminated. He could have easily thrown away the dish. Instead, he was intrigued by the green mould and its effect on the surrounding germs. Further examining the phenomenon, Fleming laid the ground of what was to become one of the twentieth-century wonder drugs. Recalling the historic occasion of receiving his knighthood in 1944, Sir Alexander remarked, "Like many other bacteriologists, I have had many culture plates contaminated with mould spores which drop in from the air, and like every other bacteriologist, I have cast them out with suitable expressions of annoyance; but on this one occasion I did not cast it out, and penicillin was the result. It seems to me, as it must seem to you, most extraordinary that a stray mould spore, coming from no one knows where, settling in St Mary's Hospital, should eventually have led to such phenomenal results."

*** RADAR spelt backwards is RADAR - they get you coming or going.

THE NEWCASTLE DAYTIME MEETINGS,

at **Studio 48, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, at 10 a.m.**
on the **THIRD Wednesday of each month (except December).**

“CZECHOSLOVAKIA” - display by DIANA BRIDGMAN, Wed. 18th AUGUST 2010

Diana was born in Czechoslovakia, her maiden name being Kozlovsky, and Czech was the language spoken at home – she met Howard in the U.S.A. Diana pointed out that Czechoslovakia was “land-locked”, and surrounding countries ‘always wanted a piece of it’ – particularly Germany, Austria, and the USSR. On 31st December 1992, Czechoslovakia ceased to exist as a country, the two constituent republics becoming the Czech Republic and Slovakia.



Diana’s display was different from the usual - CZECH SOUVENIR SHEETS, from 1937 to 1992. The first issue, 1937, depicted the tomb of General Stefanik, who in 1918 got the Czechs and the Slovaks to unite, to form Czechoslovakia, and this sheet was issued just before Hitler invaded in 1938-39.

The souvenir sheets showed Nationalistic leaders – the President, and Communist leaders, scenes (including views of Poprad Lake and the Tatra Mountains), several of space (including one showing parachutes), architecture (1988), and children’s books and illustrations.



Particularly noted were 1938 - the 85th Anniversary of the birth of the late President Masaryk; April 1945 - the return of President Benes (following the country’s Independence); 1952 - Bulgarian partisans and the Soviet Army; 1987 - 20th Anniversary of the Interkosmos Space Programme with USSR and Czech Cosmonauts; 1984 - Winter Olympics, and 1990 (the year Communism ended in Czechoslovakia) - the 150th Anniversary of the Postage Stamp (1840).

“SOLDIER MAIL OF WORLD WAR I”

– display by **GREG LAIDLER, Wed. 15th SEPTEMBER 2010**

Greg’s fascinating display covered postcards, field service postcards, covers, letters - correspondence from many of the countries involved in the conflict –

Britain, Germany, Turkey, Australia, even from neutral Switzerland. One outstanding item was a FRENCH ARMY POSTCARD, which showed the flags of Allied nations. Army postcards, such as this, were issued freely to soldiers. The heading means ‘Correspondence for the Armies of the (French) Republic, postage free’. The card shows the flags of the eight allied nations : on the left, Imperial Russia, Great Britain, Italy and Japan (mostly hidden); and on the right, France, Belgium, Montenegro and Serbia.



The Depot d’Eclupes was a convalescent hospital or home for maimed soldiers, and a ‘vaguemestre’ was the person in charge of the mail at a military base, warship, prison or hospital. The card was posted from Sector 63 using the T&P 63 postmark, dated (Saturday) 20 November 1915. The card is addressed to Monsieur Charles Ruisse, Corporal, 3rd Battalion Tirailleurs (Riflemen), in Sector 165.



*** DID YOU KNOW ? Those tiny yellow seeds in a strawberry’s skin are called *achenes*, and the dots above i’s and j’s are called *tittles*.

THE NEWCASTLE DAYTIME MEETINGS,**at Studio 48, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, at 10 a.m.****on the THIRD Wednesday of each month (except December).****"POLAND" - display by HOWARD FISHER, TORONTO, Wed. 20th OCTOBER 2010**

Howard, a retired Geography teacher, started off his display with several maps (including some school-type wall maps, recognised immediately by retired Art teacher Sandra Baker !) detailing the volatile history of Poland over the years. Poland had been one of the major European powers, but, after 1572, it entered a long period of decline, culminating in the division of the country among Russia, Austria, and Prussia in 1772, 1793, and 1795. Poland was again established as a sovereign state after WW I in 1919, but hyper-inflation occurred in 1923. The country was divided for a fourth time in 1939 between Germany and the USSR. The present Polish state was formed after World War II, although not within its prewar boundaries. The territory of the Poland suffered a net loss of about 76,000 sq.km (about 29,344 sq.mi.), as the land ceded to the USSR in the East was nearly double that gained from Germany in the West. A Communist-dominated government came to power in 1947, and in the 1970s and early '80s, Poland went through a period of considerable economic and social upheaval.

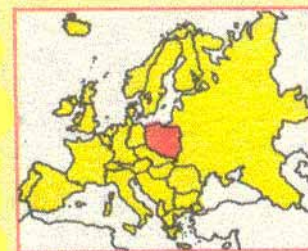
Howard explained one reason for Poland's invasion problems is that most of the country consists of level fields and plains, and marauding armies could criss-cross the country very easily.

Poland's coat-of-arms – a white eagle – appears frequently on its early postage stamps, but prominent Poles, presidents, poets and musicians appeared later – for instance Kosciuszko (the explorer) in 1932, musician Stanislaw Moniuszko (1819-1872) in 1951, and Frederic Chopin time and time again. Birds and animals started appearing from 1960, together with sports, art, architecture, and famous people from other countries, amongst the vast array of more modern Polish stamps.

R.D.



Poland is divided into 49 provinces (bearing the same name as their capitals) and the autonomous cities of Warsaw, Łódź and Cracow.

**AUCTION REPORT SEPTEMBER 2010**

Our September auction was a relatively quiet affair with several of our regulars away on holiday or working. 290 lots were submitted by 15 vendors and of these 141 sold, which is 49% and an excellent result. Bidder numbers were down to just 29, yet between them they chalked up purchases to the value of \$899.50. Highest price of the night went for a mixed album containing a couple of gems plus lots of useful goodies and which after some feverish bidding sold for \$130.

Other notable sales include a lovely batch of German Colonies and WW1 overprinted issues which fetched \$32. A Button Set of Gum side Framas went for \$30 and a nice page of PNG Lakatois fetched \$25.

It was a good night and everything went smoothly with Mark Saxby excelling as auctioneer. Our regular auctioneer, Steve Burton, can no longer help us as he has moved from the Newcastle region. Our thanks go to him for many years of assistance. As always, my thanks to the workers and to all who participated. Hope to see you at our next Auction in February 2011.

Don Catterall, Auction Convenor, phone 49435639.

- Beer is the favourite tippable by far for climbers of Mount Everest. About 67,000 empty bottles have been left behind by climbers and trekkers in the Everest region in Kathmandu. That equals 33.5 tonnes of glass on the 8848-metre peak. Of the bottles, 80 per cent once held beer, while vodka, rum, cola and jam make up most of the rest.
- Aluminium foil is shiny on one side and dull on the other because of the way it's made. It starts out as a large coil which is rolled at high speed through a mill, reducing its thickness. To get uniform width, two rolls are stacked together and run through again. The side that touches the rollers comes out shiny, while the side that touches only foil has a dull finish.
- * A racehorse loses between 6 kg and 10 kg while running a 3.2 km (2 miles) race, such as the Melbourne Cup !

“ASPECTS OF THE BOER WAR 1899-1902, Part 1”

- display by JOHN PUGSLEY, Thursday 14th OCTOBER 2010

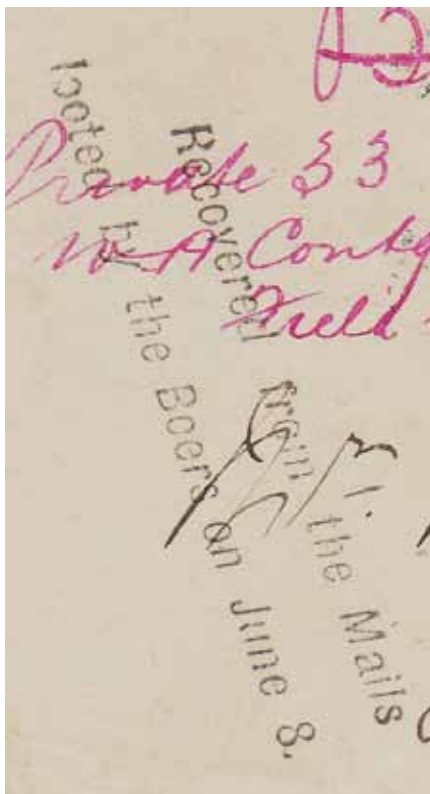
“From the postal history viewpoint”, John said, starting off his display, “the Boer War is one of the most interesting wars prior to World War I. Involved in South Africa were approximately 450,000 (initially 25,000) British and Colonial troops, and 50,000 Boers which included their allies. A very high proportion was literate – hence lots of mail. Due to the large international involvement, there was mail between many places in the world”. We saw 64 pages of John’s 128-page gold-medal-winning display – hence the “Part 1”.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WAR : The BOER War began in earnest after the British ignored an ultimatum, issued by the authorities of the Boer Republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free State (OFS), to stop amassing troops in the two adjacent British colonies of Natal and the Cape. The British were aided by enthusiastic volunteer forces from the rest of the ‘Empire’. The Boers received some assistance from volunteers, largely from Boers in the Cape and Natal, and various European states. The British suffered initial defeats, but by April/May 1900 were winning the conventional war. The OFS capital, Bloemfontein, was taken in May, and the Transvaal capital Pretoria in June. The Boers then continued their resistance for a further 2 years using mainly guerrilla warfare in that period. To prevent guerrillas obtaining supplies, the British destroyed their farms, impounded cattle, and put into ‘protective’ concentration camps Boer wives and children. Eventually a ‘Cease Fire’ was declared when the remaining exhausted Boer forces surrendered to British rule.

John’s Postal History display covered six separate aspects of the War :

- **Northern NATAL 1899-1900 - with mail from and to invading Boer forces at various occupied Natal locations; mail from and within besieged Ladysmith; then the British response by the Natal Field Force (NFF).**
- **Cape of Good Hope (The Cape) 1899-1900 - with mail from and to invading Boer forces at various occupied Cape locations; and mail from and within besieged Mafeking.**
- **The British Advance/Boer retreat - the British response in the Cape by the South African Field Force (SAFF); then the advance into Boer territory by SAFF and NFF; and a special issue relating to the Boer retreat.**
- **The British Army Post Office - summarising the basic workings of the Army Post Office Corps (APOC), and the usage of date stamps.**
- **Colonial Contingents - showing mail to and from representatives of Contingents from the British Colonies of Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, Burma, Rhodesia, and the Irregular Volunteers raised in South Africa.**
- **Medical Organisation in South Africa - detailing usage by both sides, including items from voluntary European ambulances, Colonial Contingents, and Support services.**

Included were significant cover markings which told most of the story - normal and special date stamps, censorship labels and cachets, camp cachets and other special cachets, cover annotations, and destination addresses. The use of special stationery and stamp issues were also featured. The earliest items dated from just prior to the outbreak of the War on 11 October 1899, and extended to a few months after the War’s conclusion on 31 May 1902. And several UNIQUE items were also included in the display !



Stampless official Red-Cross printed cover sent to the Red Cross Information Bureau at Pretoria endorsed 'Velddienst' and 'C.B.van der Heide, Hospitaltrain Modderspruit'.

Backstamped oval 'ELANDSLAAGTE / 28 DEC 1899' and cds 'PRETORIA / 30 DEC 99'.

According to [Medical](#), page 73, although the Transvaal ran 4 hospital trains no evidence of mail from them had been recorded

This is the first cover so recorded

The cachet at left was used on one of the covers looted by the Boers at Roodewal Station – from Tasmania, addressed to a private in the West Australian Mounted Rifles in South Africa.

OUR SOCIETY'S 2010 CHRISTMAS PARTY . . .



This year, our Christmas Party will be held at **KEITH AND PAMELA KESTEL's** place, **53 CRESSINGTON WAY, WALLSEND**, on **FRIDAY 10th DECEMBER**, starting about **6 p.m.**

Keith is providing the meat for a barbeque (cost will be \$5 a head), and is organising salads and sweets with selected members.

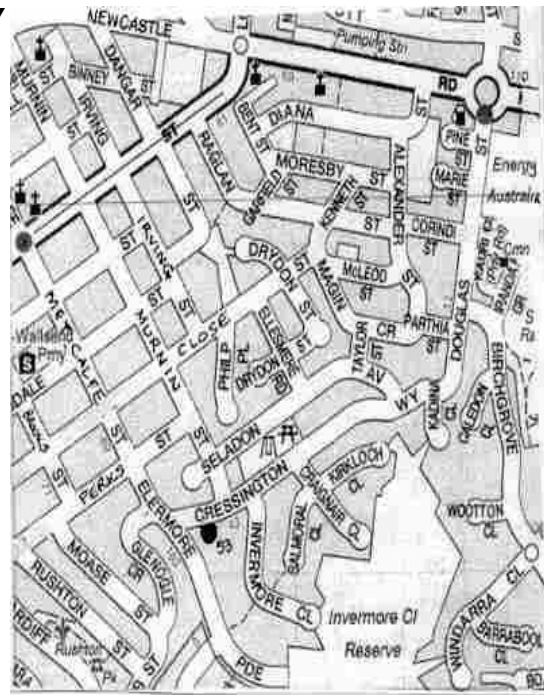
So, all that you have to bring along, apart from yourself and your partner, is "something of interest which you can either talk about, or tell a story about" if you like. Casual. No presents.

It's easy to find - if you're travelling west on Newcastle Road from Jesmond, turn left into **Douglas Street** just past Energy Australia (and Dumbrell's Spring Factory), follow it up the hill and around the corner into Cressington Way – and Keith's place is 3rd from the far end of the street, on the left. If you're travelling east on Thomas Street, turn right at the **Metcalf Street** traffic lights, and Cressington Way is up near the top of the hill, on the left.

Phone **KEITH** if there are any problems - on **4951 1936**.

If you're planning on coming, he would like to know numbers. Should be lots of fun.

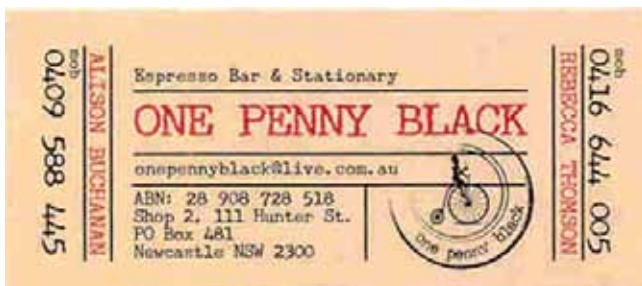
Gregory's Map 294, G14; or UBD Map 131, G14.



But, if you can't get to the Party, then your Committee wishes you and your family joy, happiness, and all the very best of wishes for the 2010-2011 festive season !!



WAS IT THE "SPILLED-COFFEE-ON-THE-PENNY-BLACK" DREAM AGAIN, DEAR?



The **ONE PENNY BLACK ESPRESSO BAR AND STATIONERY SHOP** is in the Hunter Mall, 2 blocks east of David Jones. On the wall inside the Espresso Bar is a huge print of the 1840 GB 1d Black stamp, provided to the owners by Anna and John Hill. They obtained it during their visit to the LONDON 2010 Exhibition

THE WORLD'S FIRST COMPUTER, 1948.
 IT HAD THE CAPACITY OF A MODERN SMALL HAND-HELD CALCULATOR.
 Our member Roger Eggleton's wife, Jean, says that she was working with something like this in the early 1960's.

