



Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter VIEWS FROM NOBBYS

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

NOVEMBER, 2011 : Newsletter No. 159 : 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 10 November '11	Display by Ed Wolf (Sydney) - "EUROPE-AUSTRALIA AIRMAILS"
Wed 16 November 2011	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, - Display by Don Catterall "POSTCARDS"
Sun 20 November 2011	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
Fri 25 November 2011	NPS Christmas Party, Don & Margaret Catterall's place, 13 Oceanview Parade, Charlestown (east of the Highway), 6 p.m.
Thurs 8 December '11	Display by Lionel Savins (Sydney) - "NEW ZEALAND POSTAL STATIONERY"
Mon 12 December '11	Visit MAITLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY (phone John Moore 4956 8931)
Sun 18 December '11	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
DECEMBER	NO Newcastle Daytime Meeting
Thurs 12 January 2012	Display by - Greg Laidler "POSTAL HISTORY OF KGV & VARIETIES OF THE 1d RED"
Sun 15 January '2012	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
Wed 18 January 2012	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, - Display by John Moore "THE 'OFFICIAL' OVERPRINTS OF TUVALU"
Thurs 9 February 2012	Display by Graeme Morris (Sydney) - "NEW ZEALAND 1935 DEFINITIVES"
Wed 15 February 2012	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East Display by Howard Bridgman "FRENCH SOUTHERN & ANTARCTIC TERRITORIES"
Sun 19 February 2012	WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at 11am
Thurs 23 February 2012	STAMPAUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 4943 5639)
Thurs 8 March 2012	Display by Ron Davis - "CRUISING THE CARIBBEAN"
Thurs 21 March 2012	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10.00 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, - Display by John Hill "TRAVELLERS' TALES OF PLACES WE'VE BEEN TO"

A PIECE FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

As we begin a new philatelic year we can look forward to an interesting series of displays interspersed with our regular auction and swap & sale nights. Remember that these events do not just happen - a lot of hard work has been done by the officers and committee, particularly our hard working secretary and the operations convenor, to name just two, and I extend my thanks to them.

Our hobby caters to a wide variety of interests and tastes. What you collect and how you collect it is a matter of individual choice - stamps, postal history, post cards, airmails, post marks, the list could go on indefinitely. Some choose to follow the strict guidelines laid down by international judging panels; some like to research the history and/or social aspects of their stamps and covers; others are happy to follow the listings of the catalogues; and an infinite variety of other categories and sub-divisions. The important thing to remember is that each type of collection is as valid as the other and our sole aim is to enjoy what we are doing and through our Society share our interests with other people.

I would encourage you to exhibit your collections within our society and so share your interests and knowledge. We cannot all have medal winning collections (although we are lucky to have a number of them assembled by our members) and your collection will show your individual interests and achievements. I know that I have learned a lot from exhibiting portions of my modest collection to the Society.

Gordon Gibbons, President - 1 -

The SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS, NOVEMBER 2011

Firstly a correction is needed to the 2011/12 syllabus that was distributed during September, date of the May 2012 auction night is the 24th.

With the Christmas season almost upon us, as well as warmer weather, I would like many of you to try to have a bit of a break away from collecting interests; but I do believe it is timely to remind all of our long-running Popular Choice Competition that is held in April, where we have been working through the letters of the alphabet. We have now reached the letter U, which may appear daunting to some but I do know that there are a lot of imaginative minds out there. I think there has been about 20 stamp issuing entities that start with the letter U. Then there are Unused Stamps, Undeliverable mail, Umbrellas, UNESCO and no doubt many more can be flushed out by looking in a dictionary.

The next stamp exhibition to be held in Australia is the Canberra Stampshow on 16 -18 March '12. It promises to be a good exhibition with the Australasian Challenge where the six Australian States, A.C.T. and North and South Island New Zealand compete against each other. As well there are expected to be approximately 30 dealers in attendance. After Canberra there is a National exhibition in Fremantle W.A. during May, which promises to be the largest of its type held in Australia for many years. And then the big one of them all is Australia 2013 an International Exhibition in Melbourne (May 2013).

Toronto Stamp Club has moved from its old location in Fennell Bay Hall to BOLTON POINT Hall, which is right at the tip of Bolton Point, next to the Lake on Middle Point Road. 7.30, first Wednesday each month.

- - John Moore, Secretary - - .

Auction Report, September 2011

This night went extremely well and resulted in some near record results. Total Sales were \$1645 and the number of lots sold was 164, certainly among the more successful auction nights that the Society has held.

This was despite the absence of several regular bidders, some of whom were sick or out of town. In fact only 33 bidders took cards on this night.

441 lots were submitted by 19 vendors and 37% of these were sold, with plenty of competitive bidding for the better lots, of which there were quite a number on offer.

Highest price of the night of \$170 was paid for a CTO 5/- Sydney Harbour Bridge whilst \$110 was paid for a 3d Blue Kookaburra Miniature sheet.

Next came a stockbook of early New Zealand rarities which went for \$100, this being from the late John Fordham's collection. Other lots from the same source were two stockbooks of early NZ including Revenues which sold for \$50 each and a NZ Patriotic label which went for \$32.

Several lots with British stamps of Malayan States saw the hands go up, and most of these sold for around \$25. Some Russian Revolution issues sold for \$30 and the wide variety on offer saw something for almost everyone.

When it was all over the late sales started and over 20 items were bought from the group that I was looking after alone. It was a Great Night and our Thanks go to all who participated.

- Don Catterall, Auction Convenor.

FREE ADVERTISEMENTS !!

November, 2011

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

FOR SALE:

HAROLD FRANKS - phone 4953 0050. *I have '1000s' of Australian INTERNATIONAL stamps - mint, mint no gum, and used, including the hard-to-get high values. Also some overseas stamps, mainly Poland and Russia.*

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.*

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 - Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan. And I am STILL wanting "pre-history" stamps from Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania.*

HOWARD BRIDGMAN - phone 4950 2325 : *Early U.S.A. covers wanted, pre-1930.*

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. From 5c up. Only HALF of our members are on the circuit lists - are you one of them??*

DAVID PICKERING, phone 4953 2735 - *Locomotives on stamps & postcards, and ALL Aust. 'Specimens' Overprints.*

DON CATTERALL - phone 4943 5639: *old postcards, and AUSTRALIAN Revenue and Railway Parcel stamps.*

THE ANNUAL COMPETITION,

11th AUGUST 2011

In our 2011 Annual Competition there were eight entries in the Experienced Section, but none in the Intermediate or Beginners Sections. The entries were judged by Ed Burnard, Don Rutherford, and Bernard Doherty. The standard was remarkably high, as four of the 8 entries achieved Vermeil awards (the one just below Gold).



RON DAVIS – in the ‘Open’ Class, “A WORLD OF SUPERLATIVES” gained a Silver-Bronze award. Ron’s exhibit showed a host of the biggest, smallest, highest, lowest, longest, shortest, smallest, crookedest, narrowest and most peculiar items and structures in the World.

DON CATTERALL - in the class for ‘Postcards’, “THE PANAMA CANAL” was awarded a Silver. Don took us through the Canal from the port of Balboa in the Pacific, 65 kilometres and 85 feet above sea level through all the locks and across Gatun Lake to Cristobal and Colón on the Caribbean Sea.

GREG LAIDLER - “A STUDY OF THE STAMP - \$4 SHEARING OF THE RAMS”. This study of varieties and variations of the stamp issued on 24th April 1974 showing the painting by Tom Roberts gained Greg a Silver award. The stamp was part of the Australian Paintings Definitive Series 1974-1981.

RON DAVIS – “POSTMARKS AND HANDSTAMPS USED IN PARRAMATTA POST OFFICE, DURING THE BI-CENTENARY OF ELIZABETH BAY HOUSE, 1993”. Ron was awarded a Silver, probably because he had the record for the longest title of an exhibit in the Competition. Ron included some very obscure hand-cancels indeed, obtained, he admitted, from a “contact”.

JOHN PUGSLEY – “PACKET MAILS BY STEAMSHIP FROM THE UK TO AUSTRALIA 1856-1881”. Most of us are proud of the one or two or perhaps three “Paquebot”-cancelled covers in our collection. John’s exhibit of FIFTEEN pages of them gained him a Vermeil award ! Note that these covers were carried by STEAMSHIP, in an era dominated by sailing ships.

JOHN MOORE - “LORD HOWE ISLAND POSTAL CANCELS 1900-2000’. John’s entry also was awarded a Vermeil, and included such hard-to-get items as a cover carried on the Last Flying Boat Mail from Rose Bay to Lord Howe Island on 10th September 1974 – 9292 items were carried on this flight. The exhibit ranged from the earliest known use of a circular date cancel on 2nd June 1900 through cancellers used throughout the next 100 years.

GORDON GIBBONS’ entry, “CHILE - POSTCARDS AND POSTMARKS”, included domestic and foreign cards from the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries. It was awarded a Vermeil also. Gordon pointed out that these cards were a cheap means of communication in the days before the telephone, particularly for clubs and social groups, as a means of advertising products, or conveying a message where privacy was not a problem.

MARK SAXBY – with a score of 84.3% for “AUSTRALIAN PRIVATE PERFINS” was the winner, and was awarded a Vermeil. Mark covered 60 years from 1890 through to the mid-1950’s and a few later ones. The term “Perfin” (PERForated INitialS) was first used in the Danish Stamp Exhibition at ARNOPHIL 1976. Included in his entry was the Sydney Harbour Bridge perfin, of which there are only 9 copies known. Sometimes PATTERNS are used instead of the more common INITIALS. Mark showed us one using the arm of a morse code key, another with a bell, and the Daily Telegraph’s telegraph pole and wires (1891-1916). Farmer and Company had a very fancy perfin (1924-1940), and Finneys Department Store in Brisbane used their whole name rather than their initials (1912-1921).



** OECD data (2008) shows that Australia is the 7th lightest taxed country out of its 34 members, with only Chile, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Turkey and the United States having a lighter tax burden. (*SMH*).

** In the United Kingdom, older workers are taking on apprenticeships - there are more than 400 people in their sixties, 13 in their seventies, with the oldest aged 76. (*HealthWorks*).

** Our City of Newcastle in the Hunter was recently named as one of Lonely Planet’s Top 10 places to visit in the world in 2011. (*Newcastle Herald*).

THE ANGLO-BOER WAR, 1899-1902, Part 2

display by John Pugsley, 8th September 2011

OVS Letter Card from HARRISMITH of FE 6 00, addressed to Pietermaritzburg in Natal, via BLOEMFONTEIN of 8 FE 00, where it was also censored and Second Orange Free State cachet applied, then routed via Pretoria and Delagoa Bay.

At DURBAN on FE 25 1900, the special cachet above, in violet, was applied, and passed to Returned Letter Office, receiving a date-stamp RETURNED LETTER OFFICE NATAL 26 2 00.



Following his display of "Part 1" of the Boer War - between Transvaal and Orange Free State - last year, John dealt with Censorship and the Prisoner of War Camps in this display, and had some truly amazing covers. These camps were set up by the Boers in SOUTH AFRICA and by the British at first on the remote island of ST. HELENA, where there were 5700 prisoners at Deadwood and Broadbottom Camps. Prisoners were then confined on ships, and in camps in Ceylon, India, and Bermuda. Portugal was also involved, when 1260 men and women and 173 children were transported from Portuguese East Africa to a Burgher Camp at Caldas da Rainha in PORTUGAL. There were three types of camp – concentration camps, burgher camps, and refugee camps. At one of these, on Henson's Island in BERMUDA, children from 6 to 16 were sent to a school for training, and were better off than the children left behind, of whom 35% died from measles, etc. in camps back in South Africa. Deaths were common in the British camps, the major infections coming from a contaminated water supply. The Boer farmers were not used to being herded into camp conditions, and used to defecate anywhere, usually in the open as they had been used to.

The first batch of 5000 prisoners sent to Southern CEYLON 8/8/1900 were housed at Diyatalawa and Mount Livinia Camps. There was a camp for Parolees set up in September 1901 at Hambantota, 148 miles from Colombo on the south coast – more or less a convalescent camp, housing 60 to 100 parolees. Ragama Camp, 10 miles north of Colombo, opened in January 1901 to house non-Boer foreigners and other dissidents causing friction at Diyatalawa. Then the Hospital Ship "Atlantian" and Weli Kada Gaol were used to house troublesome prisoners from the Ragama camp !!

Camps in INDIA were opened in early 1901 at Ahmednagar, Bellary and Shahjahanpur, and Bhimtal was set up in 1902. Meanwhile, there were 12 camps in South Africa, 9 camps in Orange River Colony and 16 camps in Transvaal,

Barberton being described as "the most pleasant of all the camps". In Jan. 1902, there were 40,000 Boer Prisoners of War, and 121,965 Boers in concentration camps. Peace was signed on 31st May 1902. The final batch of prisoners was returned from St. Helena on 21st October 1902.

- R.D.-



Post Card from 'RIGA 19 V 01'. (Part of the Russian Empire at this time)

Received at 'AMEDNAGAR 22 JU 01'.

Cover censored with Ahmednagar Type I ** CENSOR P.O.W. * C.E.NIXON, B.A. AHMEDNAGAR, INDIA' violet cachet.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE INK AND PAPER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA KING GEORGE V 1d. RED POSTAGE STAMP

A review by Dr. Geoff Kellow, of the book by Charles Hosking, Melbourne

The author's aim was an attempt to quantify, on a scientific basis, the papers and inks used for the 1d. red George V stamp of 1914 -1920 - a subject on which much has already been written - some would say too much! This study must be the most detailed to which any one stamp has ever been subjected. Throughout, the methodology used has been precisely detailed, and a great deal of background on papermaking and colour perception is provided, which will be new to most philatelists. Dated stamps were used for all the testing to enable a chronological classification of the results. The paper used for the stamp was found to be 75% rag and 25% softwood, a result which matches the original the original specification provided to the paper supplier in 1914. The sizing of the paper was found to vary considerably. The Die 3 stamps differed, being on paper comprising 98% rag. This paper had originally been intended for the printing of intaglio stamps by the wet process. The smoothness of the paper was studied by a microscopic examination and classification of the size of the non-printing areas caused by pits in the paper surface. A classification into six categories was made. Rough paper is first found in July 1917, matching the well-established philatelic evidence. Very smooth surfaced paper occurred only up to June 1916.

Paper thickness; measured under controlled conditions, was found to average 0.092mm. Thin paper (less than 0.081mm) and thick paper (more than 0.101mm) occur throughout all shade groups and classes of paper. The author asserts that there is a two-sidedness to paper resulting from the papermaking procedure, the felt side being smoother than the wire side, since smaller pulp particles can pass through the wire. Further, it is the smoother side which is gummed, since gum is more expensive than ink, and less gum will be used on the smoother side. However, examination showed that stamps were often printed on the smoother side of the paper. These results can perhaps be questioned. As the paper would be gummed in reels, I do not see how the same side would not always be gummed. If gumming on either side could happen, this should be identifiable in the form of reversed watermarks identified by the marginal letters. As far as I know, this variety has never been recorded on the 1d. red.

Charles Hosking offers no major new approach to the thorny question of shades, dismissing all available methods for the scientific measurement of colour as either impractical when applied to postage stamps, or prohibitively expensive. He does, however, have valuable comments to make on the conditions under which visual identification of shades should be made. He advocates a simplified system based on fewer colour names, and recognises four types of UV fluorescence - dull magenta, bright orange, rose, and red. - G.K.-

In case you missed it, the NETHERLANDS ANTILLES all-but disbanded on 10th October 2010. The Dutch government gave the islands of Curaçao, St. Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba more independence. The islands have been the Netherlands Antilles since 1949. Before this date all the islands used the name Curaçao and the postmark confirmed where the mail had started. On 1st January 1986, the island Aruba, originally part of the Neth. Antilles, became more independent and began issuing its own stamps. The island Curaçao gained independence on 10th October, by the so-called "status apart", and will issue stamps with the name Curaçao, and as currency it will have the Caribbean guilder. The island of St. Maarten will go the same way and also use the Caribbean guilder. The remaining three islands - Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba - will become a Dutch community, agreed by the so-called Bonaire Eustatius Saba (BES) status. They have been made a Dutch community because European law prevents the islands from becoming "European soil", since the islands are not located in Europe. The BES islands will issue new stamps under the name Caribisch Nederland, and use the United States dollar. Bonaire (capital Kralendijk), with an area of 288 sq.km. has a population of 13,389 (on 1-1-2010), Sint Eustatius' (capital Oranjestad) area is 21 sq.km. and population 2886, and Saba (capital The Bottom) has an area of only 13 sq.km. with a population of 1737. This means that there is one dead country added to the world of stamps, and there are three new countries added.

** An ostrich's brain weighs less than one of its eyeballs. Quite often ostriches can spot a predator approaching at high speed. Their problem is that they can't always think fast enough to get out of its way.

** It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a mistake - tracers had different ballistics so (at long range) if the tracers were hitting the target then 80% of the live rounds were missing. Worse still, tracers instantly told the enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell the pilot that they were out of ammo. This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down!



“UPFRONT AND BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE POST OFFICE”

- display by Bernard Doherty, Thursday 13th October 2011

Those of us who only go into a Post Office occasionally and only then to buy stamps or send a parcel, would have been amazed at the various facets of the services offered by Australia Post and its predecessor, the Postmaster General's Department, which Bernie included in his display. He said initially that the display went back to 1910, but included was a Letterbill from 1884 postmarked at Jerusalem, Tasmania !! (You thought that Jerusalem was in Israel, didn't you!).



The Government Savings Bank, later to become the Commonwealth Savings Bank, was accessible from all post offices back in the early days, each transaction being cancelled with a postmark in the passbook. Early POSTAL ORDERS and POSTAL NOTES for 2 years had a facsimile of a postage stamp on them. LITTLE LETTERS were products to promote letter writing (and the use of their stamps), and TALKING LETTERS included a tape cassette. They produced a CHANGE OF ADDRESS KIT (re-direction of mail was free up to 1/10/1973, after which a fee of \$3 per month for a business or \$1 per month for individuals was charged).

PARCELS comprised a large part of Bernie's display – how the parcels were handled, various labels, and how the post office checks on deliveries, the latest being a microchip in the mailbag to record the truck leaving and the truck arriving.



One of the more intriguing items was a special packet in which LIVE BEES (or a single Queen bee) were posted, together with bee food and other necessities – apiarists regularly sent live bees through the mail. “Living creatures such as bees, leeches and silkworms” are permitted to be sent by post providing they are “secured in strong, secure, well ventilated boxes which will NOT permit the escape of any of the contents” !

Other unusual items included a LETTERGRAM card, used with the FAX service, available from 1988 to 1990, and an UNDERPAID ARTICLES label – “addressee to pay”, and a CUSTOMS DEMURRAGE cover requiring a special handling fee.

PARCEL POST labels, TAXPACK EXPRESS, and various items for a BULK POSTAGE account, BUSINESS REPLY POST, and FREEPOST were in Bernie's display – even repair tape for an item damaged in the mail !

EXPRESS DELIVERY has been operating since 1932, replaced on 1st April 1959 with the SPECIAL DELIVERY SERVICE, which involved electronic tracking from late 1989. EXPRESS COURIER Dispatch Labels were there, too, together with the scarce DEFENCE FORCES BY DIRECT BAG, from 18th December 1939.

BOX LINK was discontinued on 6th January 1995.

An unusual item – letters with no return address on the back for “Return-to-Sender” mail were opened to obtain an address, and a letter was sent to the sender explaining how to do it. Bernie also had examples of various MONEY ORDER documents, TRAVELLER'S MONEY ORDERS, and LATE FEE items.

In 1994, 93.8% of 16 million mail articles per day were delivered early or on time. – R.D.-

** 1858 saw the publication of the World's first ever telephone book – it only contained 50 names !

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).

“IDLING ACROSS THE INDIAN OCEAN” - display by RON DAVIS, Wed. 17th AUGUST 2011



Ron's display attempted to cover "from Rottneest Island to Mozambique, and Antarctica's Bouvet Island to the Maldives." Included were the "usual" hardly-ever-heard-of countries like Nossi Be, Inhambane, Quelimane, Abu Dhabi, some of the South African homelands, Japanese Occupations, Occussi Ambeno, Anjouan, Moheli and Mayotte – as well as the better-known countries. "A geographic romp," Ron described it as, and lots of questions were asked by the members present.



“PRIMATES” –

- display by HOWARD FISHER, Toronto, Wed. 21st SEPTEMBER 2011

I had thought that "primates" meant "gorillas", but I was to be surprised ! Howard pointed out that Primates (Class Mammalia) include all the apes and monkeys, as well as tarsier, bush-babies, pottos, lemurs and humans. Primates are "more-or-less unspecialized : they retain the clavicle (collar-bone), they mostly have all five digits on hands and feet, and the skeleton as a whole is mobile and flexible". Their hands and feet are adapted for grasping. Their "visual system is highly elaborate: the eyes are large and forward-looking, vision is stereoscopic and in colour. The teeth have low, rounded cusps (like molars) and are suited for crushing and squashing. Compared to body size, the brain is larger than in most other mammals". After that introduction, then followed a magnificent collection of

Lemur-like primates – the dwarf and mouse lemurs, true lemurs, sportive lemurs, indri and sifaka, and the aye-aye; Loris-like primates - the loris, potto, and galagos, and the tarsiers. Then followed the "flat-nosed" Anthropods, which include Goeldi's monkey, marmosets, and New World monkeys; and the "downward-nosed" Anthropods, which include Old World monkeys, gibbons, apes, and hominids or humans. It turns out that the Barbary Apes from Gibraltar are ALSO found in Morocco, Algeria, Central-west Africa, India and South-East Asia, Indonesia, Japan and a small area in China !



“NEWCASTLES AROUND THE WORLD”

– display by BERNARD DOHERTY, Wed. 19th OCTOBER 2011



Bernie's display was in two halves – postmarkers used in various Newcastle NSW post offices – including Newcastle West, Newcastle Hill, Newcastle East, Newcastle Telegraphs, Newcastle University – and other examples from the 34 Newcastles around the World.

There are 3 in Canada plus 3 closed, 3 in Ireland, 5 in South Africa, and 16 in the U.S.A., including New Castle, Delaware. Newcastle, Jamaica is in the 'Blue Mountains' (believe it or not!), and – talk about SMALL post offices, the first Newcastle, South Africa, post office was a pole at the side of the track, with a bag hanging there. And then there is Neuchâtel in Switzerland, and Castello de Nuevo in Spain, and, of course, Newcastle on Tyne and Newcastle Under Lyme in England. And Newcastle Waters, Northern Territory, and Newcastle Street, Perth WA.. Interesting !!



OUR SOCIETY'S 2011 CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

This year, our Christmas Party will be held at **DON AND MARGARET CATTERALL's** place, **13 OCEANVIEW PARADE, CHARLESTOWN**, on **FRIDAY 25th NOVEMBER**, starting about 6 p.m. Don is providing the meat for a barbeque (cost will be "a \$5.00 note"), and is organising salads and sweets with selected members.

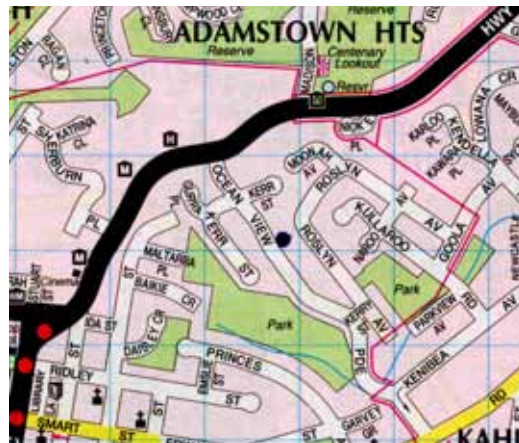
So all that you have to bring along, apart from yourself and your partner (and your gold coin), is "something of interest which you can talk about or about which you can tell a story". No presents.

It's easy to find - if you're travelling north from Charlestown shops, it's the first place on the highway where you can turn right. Travelling south on the highway, Oceanview Parade is past the Madison Drive traffic lights, on the left. Their place is on the high side of the street.

Phone DON if there are any problems - on **4943 5639**. . Should be lots of fun.

Gregory's Map 335, G3; or UBD Map 154, B3.

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 2011-2012 festive season !!



- ** *Israeli Colonel Ilan Ramon, before travelling on the space shuttle Columbia. 2002 :*
.....We are told to observe Shabbat [the Sabbath] every seventh day, but if you are orbiting the Earth every 90 minutes, do you do it every seventh orbit?
- ** The main library at Indiana University sinks over 2.5 centimetres every year. When it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of the books that would occupy the building.
- ** The Mexican agave plant used to distil tequila and mescal - famous for producing "rocket fuel" high-alcoholic drinks - is being trialled in Australia as a source of low-emission car fuel. (*Sydney Morning Herald*)
- ** Kangaroo meat needs less food and water to produce the equivalent amount of lamb and beef - Kangaroos' soft feet have less impact on the environment than hooves - cows and sheep burp methane, a greenhouse gas at least 25 times more potent than CO2 - kangaroo digestion uses a different chemical pathway and produces virtually no methane. (*Climate Spectator*).
- ** Donald Duck comics were once banned in Finland because Donald doesn't wear pants.



"Well, of COURSE I did it in cold blood, you idiot!
I'm a reptile!"



: Women drivers - but how the dickens??!