



Philatelic Society of Australia

Commemorative Meetings 2011



Report for Wednesday 17 August 2011

Australia's PEEL & STICK Revolution by Barbara Hancock

The eighth meeting of the Society's centenary year, designated "Ladies Day", took place at Philas House on 17th August with 18 members & 2 visitors in attendance, including 6 women. The guest presenter was Barbara Hancock, who in 2003 was awarded the "Inaugural Australia Post Cup" at Stampshow- Melbourne and the "Australian Philatelic Federation Research Medal". More recently, Barbara was awarded a "Large vermeil Medal" at the Sydney Stamp Expo 2011 for her display of NSW Diadems. For our display, Barbara showed her acclaimed "Australia's Peel and Stick Revolution".

Barbara introduced her 8 frame display with a detailed account of the early development of peel and stick technology outside Australia. Commencing with the first use of such stamps in Sierra Leone (1964) and Tonga (1969) she then guided the audience through to the early (1974) abortive attempts in the USA to adapt the technology to their needs. Barbara then described the introduction of this technology in Australia. The first experiments took place in the late 1980s that ultimately led to the release of the first peel and stick issue in 1989. Initially, these stamps were only available in strips of 100 stamps per box. However, in 1992, with the release of the third issue, such stamps were also available in strips of 200 and booklets of 10. Since 1992 the demand for such material has grown at an ever-increasing rate such that 6 or more separate issues of peel and stick stamps are released each year in Australia. The display, as presented, featured material from the first use of the technology's products in Sierra Leone to that of the most recent issues of Australian definitives.

However, with the introduction of the new technology came problems in manufacture. These problems included missed perforations, double cut perforations, missing colours, and absence of postage value. All such faults were meticulously illustrated throughout the display using both mint and used material on piece or cover.

Richard Peck in his vote of thanks commented on the extent of the collection's coverage and stated it must be the most complete assemblage of faults in Australian peel and stick material. The audience demonstrated their enthusiasm by the number of questions directed to Barbara, and the time spent in viewing the display.



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About the Display

The Guest presenter for the Society's 8th Commemorative display is Barbara Hancock, Honorary Secretary of the Philatelic Association of NSW and a leading authority on colonial NSW postage stamps (Large Vermeil medal for the Diadem issues at Sydney Stamp Expo 2011).

Barbara has been an enthusiastic collector since childhood. Over the past 20 years, she has developed an interest in the printing of Australian stamps, especially the flaws and subsequent retouches. (Barbara was presented with the Australian Philatelic Federation Research medal in 2003)

The advent of 'peel and stick' technology in 1990 led to a new study of the challenges presented by this printing method. As a result of Barbara's enthusiasm, she has now achieved an extensive collection of such items. (For this exhibit, she was awarded the inaugural Australia Post Cup at Stampshow Melbourne 03) On Wednesday August 17th from 10-30 Barbara will present this display on first floor at Philas House.