

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J
P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 87th year
August 2017



Diary of Future Events

August 1	Tuesday	All members one sheet display on their favourite topic
August 2	Wednesday	Daytime meeting
August 12	Saturday	Bendigo Stamp Fair
September 5	Tuesday	All members non-competitive 2 page display on a "Roman" theme.
September 6	Wednesday	Daytime Meeting
TBA		Visit to Maryborough
October 3rd	Tuesday	Member display from David Cotton
October 4th	Wednesday	Daytime Meeting

Moving Again!

Our club is on the move again. At the last meeting we found that the hall where we would conduct our auctions was full of line dancers. As we did not think members were likely to want to form a conga line around the tables to inspect the auction lots, we realized that we would need to find somewhere else.



Due to the magnificent efforts by Libby Luke, Bill Trew and Bob Hayes, a new venue has been found which should solve our problem. All future meetings will now be held at the Old Long Gully School which has a recently refurbished weatherboard hall, shown above, which is ideal for our purposes.

Old Long Gully School (now CVGT)
Cnr Stanfield and Jackson Streets, Long Gully
7.30 - 11 pm First Tuesday in each month

The Stamp Fair is nearly upon us. Win a \$25 fair voucher!

This will be the last newsletter before our annual fair. As in previous years, volunteers will be needed on the day before to help set up the hall and also after the fair to help clean up. Bill Trew has taken over the massive job of coordinating this year's fair and will discuss this at the August meeting.

For those of you who are entering our competition to win a \$25 voucher, as shown in last month's newsletter, please remember that entries will be judged at the August meeting. Emailed entries need to be submitted by midnight on August 1. You do not have to have the stamps, just identify them.

The general monthly meetings of the BPS are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at
Old Long Gully School (now CVGT)
Cnr Stanfield and Jackson Streets, Long Gully
Extra Daytime Meeting 1st Wed at Golden Square.

Auctions will be held at all Tuesday meetings
EXCEPT MAY, JULY and NOVEMBER
5 items per member are allowed for auctions
except in December when **10 items per member**
are allowed for the Christmas bonanza auction.

Exchange sheets will be circulated at all meetings.

CLUB CONTACTS:

President: *Libby Luke*

Secretary/Treasurer: *Bob Hayes*
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President's message August 2017

Another Financial year has come and gone and July saw our Annual General Meeting. Another good year for the Society. We are now in a new Financial Year full of hope and enthusiasm for the Society which commenced with all Office bearers re-elected.



A busy time has been had by the executive with our change of meeting venues. By the time you read this you will have been advised of our topsy turvy period whilst all this was sorted out.

Our new home is at the CVGT building which was the Long Gully Primary School. There is an annexe (cream weatherboard building) attached and this will suit our requirements admirably. The building has a large bitumen car park and is situated on the corner of Jackson and Stanfield Streets in Long Gully. It is nearer the centre of the city and not all that far from Kalianna, Large signs marked CVGT will make sure the premises are easy to find.

Thank you Vice President Bill Trew for your work and enterprise in obtaining our new premises. Now of course all efforts are being channelled into preparation and advertising for our Annual Stamp Fair on the 12th August. We are pleased all Dealer sites are fully booked which has been a wonderful response.

At the August meeting Our Secretary will have flyers for you to distribute.
Happy Stamping Libby.

August Club Auction Reminder

Members wishing to enter lots into our August auction are reminded that the deadline for submitting July Auction lots is 9.00pm Friday 28th of July. Lots submitted after that will be held over until September.

Annual General Meeting.

At our AGM held on July 4th the Office Bearers for 2017/18 were elected.

President - Libby Luke, Vice-President - Bill Trew, Secretary /Treasurer - Bob Hayes, Exchange Superintendent - Lyn Downward assisted by John Morvell, Publicity Officer - John Armstrong, Librarian - Jim Garden.

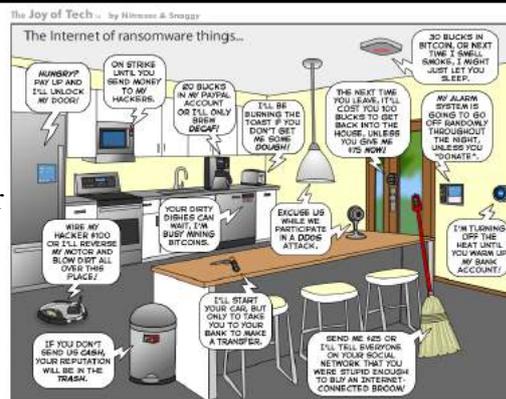
Additional Committee members David Cotton, Ken Datson, Noel Earles, Viv Martin, Doug Pearse and Tom Luke (Tom will continue as Webmaster).

Members Subscriptions were set at \$30 for the first member of a family, \$15 for additional members of the same family. Juniors \$2. The increase in subscriptions is to finance the rental on our new venue.

The Photobucket Ransom Debacle

This newsletter may be a little slim compared to recent issues as your newsletter editor is a member of Stampboards and has been spending a lot of time helping to deal with the Photobucket ransom demand.

When Photobucket was set up, its stated aim was to provide hosting for all the world's images, an ambitious target but over the years they attracted fifteen million members and hosted billions of images. The site was funded partly by an optional subscription of around AU\$30 or by advertising. If you paid the subscription, you were spared the adverts but if you didn't mind adverts, membership was free. This remained the policy, even after the site was bought by NewsCorp.



Recently, the site changed hands again, this time bought by a venture capital group and like most of that ilk, their main aim is to make a swift buck and move on. A few months back, we reported on what happened to the American Bank Note Company when they were bought by a similar enterprise. More worryingly, rumours abound that Stanley Gibbons is about to go the same way.

Photobucket members woke one morning to find an email telling them that they needed to upgrade their membership. All their images on bulletin boards like Stampboards were replaced by a logo and the price being demanded to release them was AU\$525 per year, a ridiculous amount for something that could be obtained free on other hosting sites. Photobucket had not been hacked. It was their new policy.

Stampboards members determined that they would not be blackmailed in this way and a large group of them began the long task of rebuilding the board. The expertise and information on the board is such a valuable resource that many, like our newsletter editor, are prepared to make the job a priority.

Catalogue Values and the Real World.

The Guardian column, "The Last Post", recently ran an article in which it suggested that philately would soon be a forgotten hobby. As evidence of this, it spoke of the advanced age of collectors (it was an English article and ignored places like Italy where the average collector is aged thirty) and the fact that those who bought stamps as an investment in the 1960s were finding that the prices realized when they sold, principally on eBay, were only a fraction of the Stanley Gibbons catalogue value.

Despite this being a flawed article in my opinion, there were many points made that would interest our members. Although we may not be collecting as an investment, we all like to know what our collection might be worth and for those of us who buy or sell stamps, an understanding of their value is particularly desirable.

Perhaps the most important point they make is this quote from Stanley Gibbons. "It is a common fallacy that the prices in our catalogues show what a stamp is 'worth' should you wish to sell it. They are, instead, the price at which Stanley Gibbons will sell a fine example of the stamp in question."

There are a couple of things to notice here. Firstly, as well as producing catalogues, Stanley Gibbons have always been stamp dealers. When the internet connected collectors around the world, many things turned out to be more common than previously thought. There was little, or no reduction in the SG catalogue prices.

Secondly, the words "fine example" are important. Without special care, paper has an expected life of around two hundred years. This means that for older stamps, condition is paramount when determining value. If you look at the stamps offered online, many of them are "rusty", dirty or torn yet the sellers happily quote their catalogue value to show what a bargain they are offering. Less scrupulous sellers, knowing what they are offering, offer blurred images with a note that this forms part of the description, thus protecting themselves from complaint.

So how can a collector know whether what they are buying or selling is at the right price? The only answer is to research what you wish to buy and don't buy quickly unless you know what you are getting and don't want to miss out. This can happen, of course. This writer decided to sleep on something found late at night on the internet as it was an expensive item. By the morning it was gone but generally this sort of thing is not an issue.

Scott, the publishers of the catalogues popular in America, do not sell stamps but get their prices from dealer and auction sales so they tend to be more realistic. Even so, a Greek airmail set that sold recently on eBay had a Gibbons value of £211 while Scott has it as US\$200. It sold for around \$30 (though it was mint hinged which would have dropped the price somewhat, for reasons that have never seemed really logical as most of us only look at the front).

On the other hand, it is not unusual to see stamps sold for multiples of the catalogue price, particularly in the issues that are shown as being valued at a dollar or two but can be hard to find. If a collector has been searching for a particular stamp for some time without success and it suddenly appears in an online auction, the catalogue price becomes secondary to wondering how many others are in the same situation and likely to bid.

Another way to check value is to look at what others are offering the same item for. Generally, eBay prices will vary widely from the realistic to the dreamers. Hipstamp is a very good place to look as you can enter the country and year (or the Scott number if you know it) into the search engine and usually see a reasonable assortment for sale. Many dealers sell on this site and they tend to have more fixed prices than auctions but it is worth being aware that the prices are in US dollars. Delcampe is another good site to check. There are also a couple of good online catalogues which suggest prices such as Stampworld and Catawiki.

What it boils down to is that any stamp is worth what someone is willing to pay. As far as investment goes, as someone once said, if you only buy rubbish, you will end up with a collection of rubbish. If you wish to invest, simply buying all the new issues, as the person in the Guardian article did, is no different to buying shares by sticking a pin into the financial pages of a newspaper. Any investment takes research but with stamps, unless they are reasonably rare and in top condition, the investor is bound to be disappointed.

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2013/apr/13/stamp-collectors-catalogues-philately-clubs>



What is this stamp worth?

Extra Daytime Meeting of the Bendigo Philatelic Society.

If you are unable to get to our regular evening meeting, or want more time to pursue your collecting interests, we now have a daytime meeting on the morning after our main meeting.

Members are welcome to attend both meeting times. Daytime meetings will not be formal meetings.

Venue: Golden Square Hall 9 Old High St.
(Bendigo Field Naturalists Club rooms)
(Behind the Golden Square Fire Station)

Date and time: Wednesday August 2nd. at 10.00am
(Then every 1st Wednesday of the month)

Coffee, Tea, biscuits etc, available throughout the meeting.

The venue has lots of free parking, has ground floor and ramp access and is close to a bus stop in High street. Further details if required from Bob Hayes 0407 421940 or bobh@netcon.net.au

It's Fair Season in Bendigo!

For those members who collect other things as well as stamps, this newsletter should remind you of the fair that precedes our stamp fair. Please remember not to spend all your money. Save some for our fair on August 12th.



BENDIGO COLLECTABLES FAIR

Sat. 22nd July 2017

9.00am – 4.00pm

Bendigo Exhibition Centre,
Prince of Wales Showground,
Holmes Rd. Bendigo, VIC.

Collectables For Sale & Wanted To Buy

Including - Coins, Banknotes, Militaria, Swap Cards, Stamps, Jewellery, Badges, Post Cards, Money Boxes, Medals/Medallions, Tokens, Glass, China, Pottery, Albums, Tins, Dolls, Ephemera, Collector Cards, Comics, Books, Bottles, & Many More Types of Collectables and Small Antiques available.

Lucky Door Prizes Drawn 1/2hrly.
Raffles

Free Collector Packs For Kids With Adults

Entry \$3 ea Under 14yrs. Free

Limited Tables/Stalls Still Available
Indoors. Heated. Hot Food avail. Ample Parking

Held by Bendigo Coin & Collectables Club Inc A0043856U
New Members are Always Welcome

Ph. 03 54430747 Email arpalmer13@hotmail.com (subject Fair)

Final Words

Every day the US Postal Service receives up to 90,000 letters for addresses in the World Trade Centre that no longer exist. Sorting them is a massive job which incurs a major cost to the post office. Read more here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2001/oct/19/september11.usa1>



BENDIGO Stamp Fair

Saturday

12th August 2017

10am - 4pm

Local & Melbourne
Stamp and Coin Dealers

St Andrews

Uniting Church Hall

24 Myers Street Bendigo

Free Entry

Food and Drinks Available

Bendigo Philatelic Society Inc

P.O. Box 962 Bendigo Central, Vic. 3552