



Bendigo

# The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 89<sup>th</sup> year

January 2019



## Diary of Future Events

Tuesday January 1 Stamps of 1919.  
 Wednesday January 2 Daytime Meeting.  
 Tuesday February 5 Chinese New Year.  
 Wednesday February 6 Daytime Meeting.  
 Tuesday March 5 Aircraft Before 1940.  
 Wednesday March 6 Daytime Meeting.

Please Note: The daytime meeting is on the Wednesday after the main meeting. This is not always the first Wednesday of the month

### STOP PRESS

**We will start the 2019 Night Meeting at our Golden Square venue (9 Old High St) on Tuesday the 1st of January (New Years night) at 7:30PM**

**Our January Daytime meeting will be at the same Golden Square Venue at 10AM on the 2nd January.**

## President's Message January 2019

H, Happy New Year One and All.  
 Hoping you had a Happy Festive Season  
 Another year is in front of us all and I am sure the Philatelic World will shine on us. Looking back we had a successful 2018 and finished our last 2 meetings with 40 and 38 attendees respectively.  
 Our club started 89 years ago so let us continue it in strength. Our 90th Birthday looms.  
 Our Wednesday Day meetings have proved a success and we do thank Bob Hayes again for his innovation.  
 As we start a New Year do not forget our first night meeting will be held at Golden Square on New Years Night.  
 I am writing this in complete holiday mode so please accept its brevity.  
 Hope to see you at all 7:30PM at Golden Square.  
 HAPPY NEW YEAR and Happy Stamping ...Libby.



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 at Golden Square on the Wednesday after the main Tuesday meeting .  
**Auctions** will be held at all Tuesday meetings  
**EXCEPT 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:** *Joy Watters*

ph: 0439 473 645 email: joysgold2@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** *Margaret Brown*

email: mabrown@bigpond.net.au

**Webmaster:** *Tom Luke* tomluke@westnet.com.au

Web page: [www.bendigophilatelicociety.org](http://www.bendigophilatelicociety.org)

Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/zb2ma53>

**Newsletter Editor:** *John Armstrong*

email: [jjarmstrong47@hotmail.com](mailto:jjarmstrong47@hotmail.com)

## Christmas meeting 2018

Whether the attraction was the mountains of food or the promise of a “monster” auction, something brought nearly forty members out for the December meeting. We are not sure how a few bottles of wine found their way into the auction list but their inclusion seemed popular with some. All agreed that it was a good end to the year. Next year’s first meeting is on New Year’s Day 2019. Hopefully, you will be able to attend. Below are a few images of the Christmas meeting.





## Even Old Exchange Sheets Can Tell A Story

Philately is more than simply sticking stamps in an album. Our ex-president, David Cotton, came across a couple of old exchange sheets and found lots to interest collectors, even though they no longer held any stamps. This is what he found.

A recent mystery auction lot at a club meeting unearthed some exchange sheets of bygone years.

A final glance at two empty sheets destined for the recycling bin discovered a little piece of history. The sheets are from The Philatelic Society of Victoria and the owner (vendor) was Chas Cohen.

“A history of The Philatelic Society” by A J Derrick published in 1926 lists the thirty original members when the club was formed in 1892 and Mr Chas Cohen of Bendigo is amongst them. Mr Cohen died in January 1924. He was a solicitor in Bendigo.

The sheets have no date on them but one of the members making a purchase using a rubber stamp name tag is N C Horwood. He is almost certainly Norman Coverdale Horwood of Bendigo who joined the society in 1894. Mr Horwood was a member of The Horwood Foundry family in Bendigo and he died in 1908 in Melbourne so these sheets must be more than 110 years old. The pricing on the sheets ranges from one penny through to three shillings. One item is described as “rare used..torn” price two shillings. It would be lovely to know what it was and if someone still has it in a collection.

Another purchaser is someone using a rubber stamp WB This could be Mr W Brettschneider who was exchange sheet superintendent for many years in the period 1900-1910. He paid three shillings for a stamp at a time a factory worker’s weekly wage was £3. For the same amount he could have bought a four pound loaf of bread plus a quart of milk, a pound of sugar, a pound of butter and a pound of tea.

Mr Derrick’s book offers clues as to whom the other initials belonged. FRG (The R looks a bit like an E) would have been F R Godfrey. In 1890 he wrote to the Argus newspaper suggesting that a Philatelic Society was needed in Melbourne. At first his effort was largely ignored but he persisted with more letters to Vindin’s Philatelic Monthly, asking other philatelists to contact him with the intention of forming a society. Still nothing eventuated from this until, in June 1892, a leading philatelist, Mr A F Basset Hull (later the secretary of Sydney Philatelic Society), visited Melbourne where he was entertained by many of the leading Melbourne philatelists at Sheehan’s New Treasury Hotel.

With so many present, the discussions eventually came round to the need for a society. Charles Hesselman invited them to join him for a dinner at the Vienna Café in Collins Street, Melbourne on July 7th to discuss what form the club should take.

The dinner was well attended and at last, the society was born.



*The Vienna Cafe*

## Even Old Exchange Sheets Can Tell A Story (continued)

The society needed a home. Charles Hesselman had his office in Prell's Building on the corner of Queen and Collins Streets and he arranged for the use of the boardroom there. The first meeting was held on the 10th of August 1892. David H Hill was elected as president; F R Godfrey as vice-president, Charles Hesselman became the secretary and a committee was elected.

The society stayed at Prell's Building until December 1895 but there was one big drawback. The boardroom where the meetings were held was on the seventh floor and the lift was unreliable, sometimes requiring members to climb seven flights of stairs. How many of our members would be willing or able to do that to attend a meeting?



*Prell's Building - the society's first home*

There are five other sets of initials on the sheet, shown above.

The first would be A W L Paul who joined in 1894 and later became the librarian.

Secondly, A D Cotton who joined in 1893.

Thirdly, W R Rundell who served on the first committee and was president in 1898 and again in 1905.

Fourth is probably F Clutsam who joined in 1894.

The fifth signature is not identified. It appears to be S or G McC but there is no name listed in the book that fits this. A complete list of members was included in *The Australian Philatelist* in August 1895 which may shine a light on this. We can now say that the sheets were produced between 1894, when A W L Paul joined, and 1905 when F R Godfrey left the club.

The society that produced these sheets is still with us. In 1946 His Majesty King George VI conferred upon the Society the privilege of the prefix 'Royal'. It was the first Australian philatelic society to receive the honour. We don't know where these two sheets have been for the last 110 years but they are small piece of philatelic history even though there are no stamps on them. I wonder if they would pass judgement in a philatelic competition?

David Cotton

An old lady took a package to the post office to mail and was told it would cost \$10 for fast express delivery or \$5 for the slower service.

"There is no hurry," she told the clerk, "just so long as the package is delivered in my lifetime."

The postal clerk looked at her and said, 'That will be \$10 then, please, Madam'

## **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 meetings. Daytime meetings are not 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 October 3rd. at 10.00am  
(Then every Wednesday following the Tuesday meeting)

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 can be obtained from the club secretary.



## Can you tell a story in six words or less?

Yes, you can if they are written on a postcard such as the one shown. The following is pure conjecture, of course, but is possibly not far from the truth.

The message, written in German from Salvatore Scrivano to Frau Mathilde Schreiber in Germany, simply says, "Greetings to you and Willi". It has been sent express which shows the writer's anxiety to get it to Frau Schreiber as quickly as possible. So, what is going on here?

One clue is the names. Scrivano and Schreiber are both words meaning "Writer" in Italian and German. Schreiber was generally considered a Jewish name in Germany and this was early 1942, not a good time for German Jews.

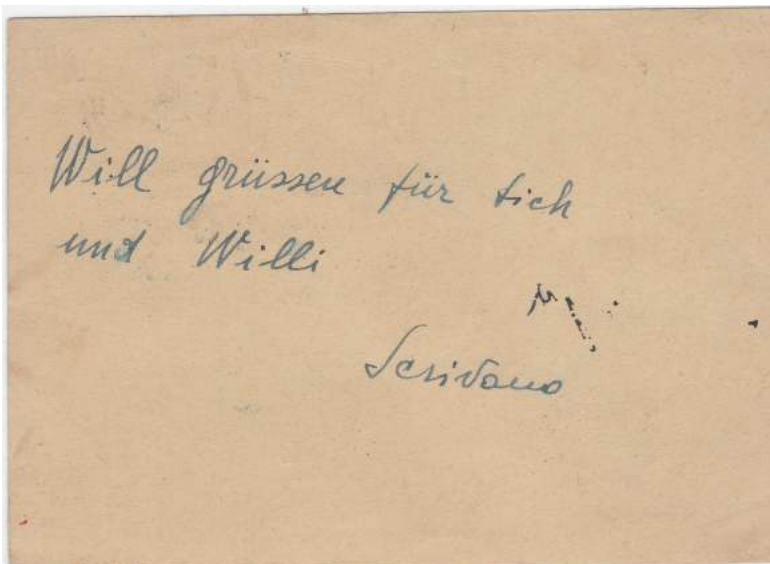
Many Jews left Germany in the 1930s and settled in the more tolerant Italy. The Italians did not share the German hatred of Jews in fact, during the war, they steadfastly refused German demands to ship their Jews to concentration camps in Germany and Poland.

Italian Fascist policy was that those who stayed should have to translate their names into Italian. It seems probable therefore, that the sender and addressee were from the same family.

So this could be an attempt at finding news of a Jewish family member in Germany or perhaps, a message home from a refugee family to say they have arrived safely.

The handwritten date is 16.2.41 but this is probably a mistake as the Rome postmark is 1.3.42. This could simply be a case of the writer forgetting the year had changed, as we all do at times. There is a German censor mark which shows it arrived in Germany. Mail between the two countries was fairly good as this was well before the Italian armistice, but there are no dated German postmarks.

It is impossible to say whether the Schreibers were able to respond or whether they were safe however they do not appear among the four million names on the Holocaust register and the name Schreiber is still found in Fulda. Add to that the fact that someone kept this card for decades after the war was over and it seems pretty sure that it reached its destination and someone from the family must have survived to preserve the card in such good condition.



Judy's grandmother once told Judy about how she and Judy's grandfather met. "I was dating this man but suddenly he left for war. We wrote love letters to each other and I learnt how splendid the man was." Judy asked her grandmother, "So you married him when he came back from war?" Her grandmother laughed, "Oh, no! Your grandfather was the postman!"

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/peoplejokes/postofficejokes.html>



## Stamp Bulletins Needed

We now only need a few to complete the collection, either as an original or alternatively a photocopy or digital copy. The numbers required are: 100, 101, 102, 103,

If you can help with any of these, please contact the club through one of the methods listed on the front page of this newsletter or give them to Ian Kimpton at our meeting.





# BENDIGO Stamp Fair

Saturday

10th August 2019

9.30am - 3.30pm

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

[www.bendigophilatelicsociety.org](http://www.bendigophilatelicsociety.org)

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Bill Trew

Email: [marj.trew@bigpond.com.au](mailto:marj.trew@bigpond.com.au)