



The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 89th year

February 2020

Web page: www.bendigophilatelicsociety.org Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/zb2ma53>



Diary of Future Events

February 4 (Chinese Year of the Rat).

February 5 Daytime Meeting.

March 3 International Year of Plants.

March 4 Daytime Meeting. (plus Committee meeting)

April 7 Richard Guy - Kangaroos
(Hand in Lois Whatley entries at this meeting)

April 8 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

President's Message February 2020

What !!! are we really in to February already !!! ?

We entered 2020 with a meeting at which 28 members attended.

Our capable Auctioneer David disposed of many of the item's displayed by members then Lyn produced the Exchange Sheets so it was head's down looking for that elusive bargain.

Myrtle supplied us with, as usual a tasty supper, and then announced that she would be absent for the immediate future due to medical problems.

Good luck Myrtle we all thank you for your friendship and catering for our suppers. Most importantly we hope the medical problems are attended to so we can have you back with us soon.

March will soon be upon us and several clubs will be having their Fairs and Auctions. We already have invites to Ocean Grove, Warragul and Ballarat.

At the last Committee meeting it was decided that as we have quite a few members who are unwell we should look to supporting them by appointing a welfare officer. Any member who thinks they can fill this position please contact me.

Last Sundays Exchange sheet "Lick and Stick" was enjoyed by all who attended . Unfortunately the numbers of members who attended was very small even though this event was well publicized.

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.

10 items per member are allowed for auctions

Christmas bonanza auction in **December** .

Exchange sheets will be circulated at all meetings.

More sheets are always needed so please "lick and stick" a few.

CLUB CONTACTS:

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Lick and Stick Day

Members gathered at the home of Tom and Libby on the 19th for a “lick and stick day” in order to help cater for the club’s voracious appetite for exchange sheets. For those who couldn’t make it there will be other days in the future or try just licking and sticking a few stamps each day at home. We always need more!

Happy Birthday in 2021

5th August 2021 will be our 90th birthday and President Libby is asking for ideas on how we should celebrate this occasion.

Here are some random thoughts to start the ball rolling.....

In 1931 Australia issued 7 (yes SEVEN) stamps for the whole year. They are the “plane across globe” design Kingsford Smith commemorative flight issues.

A display of these, particular commercially used would be nice to see.



The 90th anniversary gemstone gift is Diamonds or Emeralds. We should be able to set up a display of these on stamps to put in the library to promote our club.

How many Post Offices were there in Bendigo in 1931? Do we have a collection of postmarks from these post offices?

Bendigo has recently become a UNESCO City of Gastronomy. Does anyone have a collection of UNESCO stamps for display ?

May we seek permission from Bendigo Art Gallery to mount a display in The Post Office Gallery. The “Old Post Office” is now used for displays of various historic events associated with Bendigo.

That’s just a brainstorming start.

Why bother celebrating? To keep the club and hobby alive.

David C



Wanted

2003 Australia Bugs and Butterflies Mini Sheet overprinted for Bangkok Stamp EXPO

A Danish friend of David Cotton is anxious to acquire one. If you can help, please see David

Important Auction Reminder

Members are reminded that details of all items for the club auctions must be finalised with the treasurer by the 25th of the preceding month. Items will not be accepted after that date.

Personalised Stamps: How collectable are these?



Australia Post has at last announced the issue of personalised stamps - as distinct from the previous option which was a personalised tab attached to a basic stamp. Someone recently asked if these were collectable to which the answer is, "Of course they are. Anything that offers variation is collectable. Whether you choose to try to form a collection of these is a personal choice. Whether a catalogue of these will ever be available and whether they will be acceptable for international exhibitions may be questions with different answers.

One wonders why Australia Post took so long to do this. Other countries, such as New Zealand and Austria have been doing it for years and at a time when post offices are struggling to remain profitable, it seems logical to pursue any opportunity for raising revenue. Personalised stamps should be far more profitable than most of the merchandise currently available at your local post office as they can be produced cheaply and are sold at almost double the rate of normal stamps. A sheet of 20 costs \$35 but this should be no impediment to those wishing to use them, for instance to show off new baby photos or send wedding invitations. International stamps are also available)



Advertising on stamps issued by New Zealand, Austria and Belgium



Perhaps the main drawback for collectors will be that, unlike many of the overseas examples, these resemble a sticky label rather than a stamp. (Remember how banana shaped stamps were initially derided?) They appear to be only peel and stick and come in a rather strange variety of shapes but a simple oblong is not an option.

Despite the objections that some people might have, these will undoubtedly be popular. Perhaps we could produce one for our 90th birthday.

At the moment, for obvious reasons, the images have to be approved and the advertising only mentions personal use. They do not say if commercial varieties will be allowed but it would be surprising if they are not so keep your eyes open for the next Coke or MacDonalds issues.



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: 10 am Every Wednesday following the Tuesday night 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.

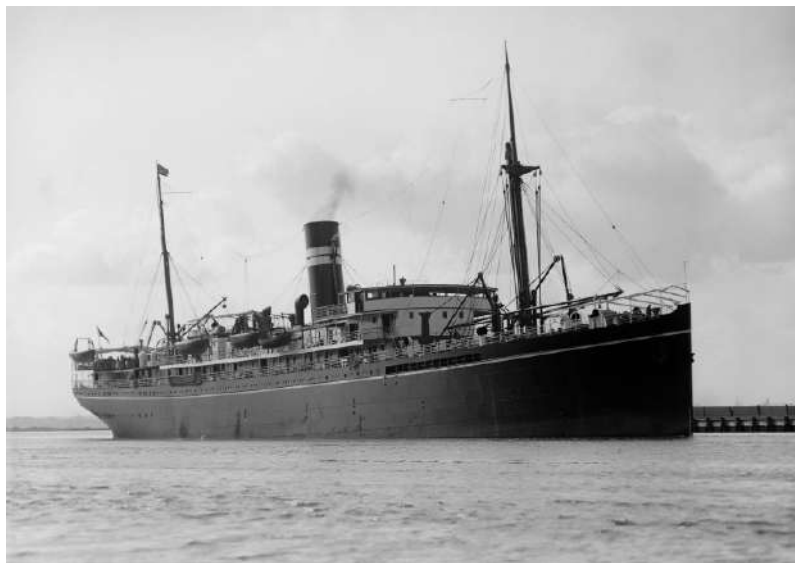
Thematic collecting: Ships on which my Grandfather sailed.

In the last Newsletter the topic of Thematic Collecting was discussed.

I am interested in ships on which my Grandfather was employed. I recently discovered a stamp issued by Fiji in 1980. The stamp features the **Levuka** a Steam Ship, which my Grandfather worked on as a Steward during 1925.



Stamp showing the Levuka, from a set issued for "London 1980" International Stamp Exhibition



Souvenir postcard as sold to passengers on the Levuka

The LEVUKA was a 6129 gross tons, 400' Twin screw passenger vessel built by A Stephens & Sons, Glasgow for Australasian United Steam Navigation Company Ltd. She traded to the Pacific islands especially Fiji. She was sold to Lloyd Brasileiro, South America in July 1926 (the year after my Grandfather sailed on her) and was renamed Pedro II and then Dom Pedro II in 1935. She was scrapped at Rio de Janeiro in 1958.



My Grandfather was born in England and during WWI was in the Royal Garrison Artillery. He first departed the Port of Plymouth England in 1919 on the Ex - German Steamer Ship the Adolph Woermann under the control of the Aberdeen White Star Line. She travelled via Panama Canal, returning WWI Troops home to Australia and New Zealand.

He was also on a number of other ships, the last record I have of him is travelling to New York in 1939 aboard the Scythia. (Which, I am looking out for also).

David Robinson.



The RMS Scythia is illustrated on these stamps from Palau and postcard sold to passengers.



What's your favourite stamp?

This month we are inviting members to let others know which stamp in their collection is their favourite. Once again we will begin with the editor's favourite, which is difficult because there are several, but to get the ball rolling we will start with the Australian Imperial Forces issue from July 1940. This set was the only issue for 1940 and there were none in 1939 which seems astounding these days.

The stamp was engraved by Frank Manley who featured in our November 2019 newsletter. Apart from being a wonderful example of the engraver's art, the stamp also has a fascinating story which we told a few years back but is worth repeating. This stamp shows that his skill was equal to any engraver of his time or since. His talent was only restricted by the abilities of the printing presses of his time. The detail in the background of this stamp is astonishing and shows scenes from the city and the bush, the twin sources of AIF fighters and I have blown the image up to A3 size and the details are still clear. When you think that Manley had to engrave this on a steel block with a small chisel called a burin, engraving it life size and in reverse, the skill required is staggering.



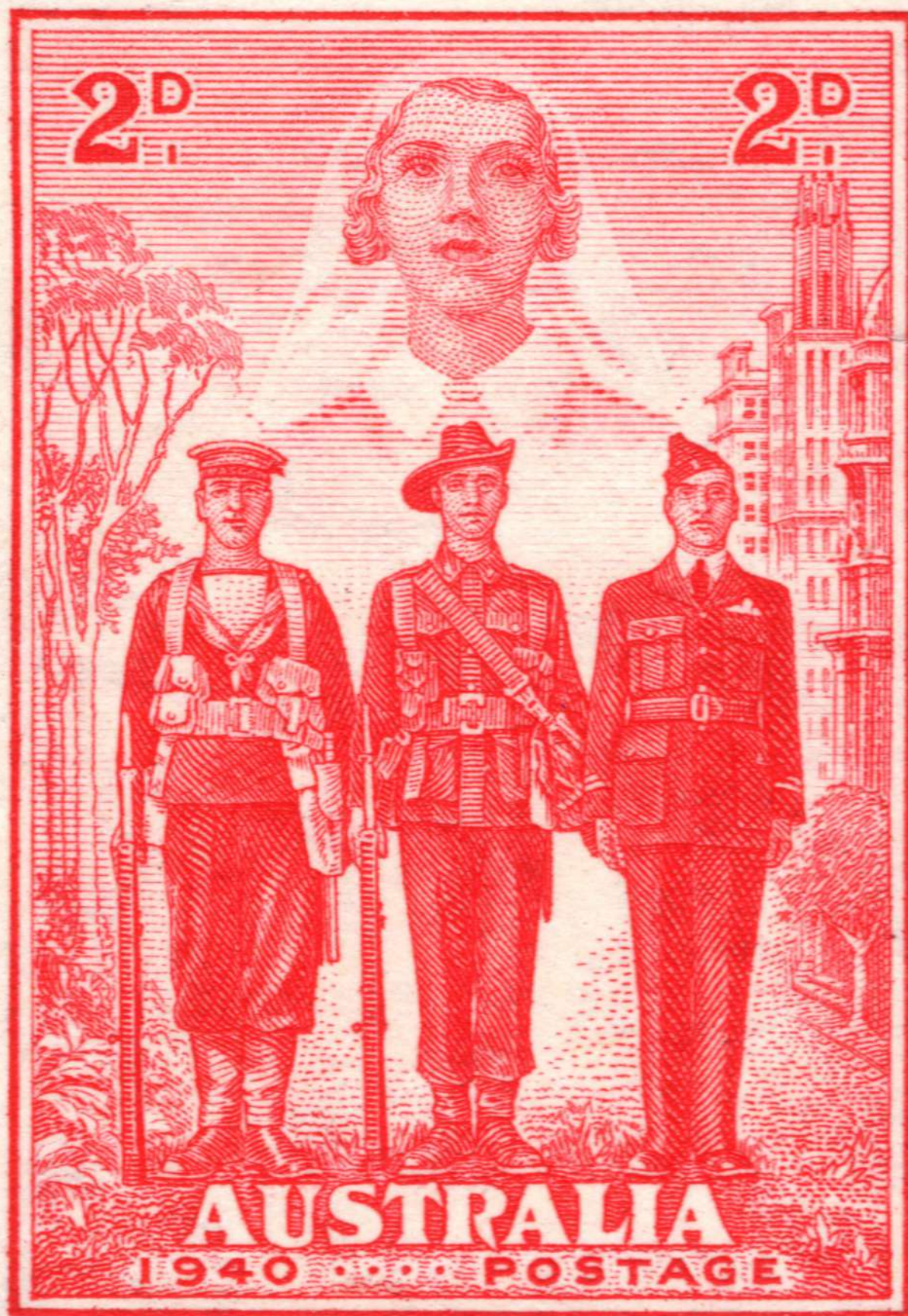
Virgil Reilly

The stamp was based on a painting for the Australian Women's Weekly by Virgil Reilly. He was a well-known cartoonist as well as painting magazine covers and illustrating books. The people in Virgil Reilly's picture are known, and they are his eldest son, Gavin Reilly (soldier), Charles Bruce (sailor), Arthur Wright (airman) and the nurse was Virgil Reilly's wife. Manley substituted post office workers for the original models, who were actual servicemen as it was felt that if any of them were killed, it would be too hard on their families to see them constantly portrayed on a stamp.

This proved prophetic as the three men on the original painting, including Reilly's son, were killed in the war. The airman, Arthur Norman Wright is often confused in the reports with his squadron leader, Arthur Norman Hicks who died of injuries received in an aircraft accident in England in June 1941. One report I read was that Wright's plane was shot down but I have not been able to verify this. Leading Seaman Charles Henry Bruce was a gunlayer on the British transport, *Ceramic*, sunk in the Atlantic in December, 1940. Third man was Virgil Reilly's eldest son, Gavan, who was killed in ambush near Buna Mission, Papua, in December, 1941. The model for the soldier on the stamp has been identified as another engraver who worked with Manley, R. J. Becker.



Frank Manley



The finished stamp. Manley has brought the servicemen to attention and put the nurse in uniform while making her more forward looking.

Annual Stamp Fair

Ocean Grove Stamp Club

**Saturday 21st March
2020**

9am - 2pm

Senior Citizens Clubrooms
101 The Terrace, Ocean Grove

Dealers in attendance for
Valuations and Buying

**Great range of Australian
& worldwide Philatelic material,
coins, banknotes and a
limited selection of memorabilia!**

Entry by **Gold Coin** Donation

Light refreshments available



BENDIGO Stamp Fair

Saturday

8th August 2020
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.bendigophilatelicociety.org

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Bill Trew

Email: marj.trew@bigpond.com.au