



Bendigo

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Founded 1931

September 2025

Web page: www.bendigophilatelic.org



Sat. 30th Aug BPS Stamp Fair
Tues. 2nd Sept Farm Machinery on stamps
Tues. 7th Oct Annual General Meeting
Tues. 4th Nov Annual Competitions

President's Report September 2025

The big news is, only a few days to our Stamp Fair. To be held on Saturday the 30th of August at St. Andrews, Uniting Church Hall from 9.30am to 2.30pm. Hopefully we will all find a little treasure we have been searching for.

If you have some spare time on this day Bill would appreciate some helpers manning the front door and for the clean up after the fair. Please contact Bill.

We have two long term members in hospital due to falls. One is Doug Pearse, and the other is Amy Benjamin.

We send our love and prayers for speedy recoveries.

Our August Meeting was our Annual Buy, Swap and Sell. I have received various comments on this night. Both Good and Bad so it will be on the agenda of the September Committee Meeting.

Members birthdays in September are Andrew, Palmer on 13th and Denis Cooper on the 27th Do hope you have a great day "Happy Birthday" to you both.

Our next meeting is the 2nd of September, and our topic is Farm Machinery on stamps. This could be a very interesting topic so please see what you can find in your collection.

Membership is now due, so if you haven't paid please pay. \$20 a single and \$30 a couple. Our October meeting is the AGM.

Let me finish with my little phrase to all members of our philatelic family.

TAKE CARE, WE CARE, and you are all important Libby.



Thank you to Jacinta Allan MP and staff for the printed copies of this newsletter.

The general monthly meetings of the BPS are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm at

**Kangaroo Flat R.S.L.
Station St. Kangaroo Flat**

Auctions will be held at all Tuesday meetings.

10 items per member are allowed for auctions
Christmas bonanza auction in **December**.

Exchange sheets will no longer be circulated at meetings. Please see Lyn to access sheets at home.
More sheets are always needed so please "lick and stick" a few.

CLUB CONTACTS:

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Growing older

Someone once told me that one of the good things about getting old is that you no longer have to worry about dying young. I suppose most of my philatelic friends have more years to look back on than they can foresee in the future. Many of us began collecting when we were still children and are lucky enough to be still doing it.

Despite the aches and pains and the way parts of your body don't want to obey you any more, growing old can still be very enjoyable, particularly if you have a hobby like philately. Having grandchildren is pretty special and is mostly denied to younger people.

Of course, even in philately, there are things that might annoy you. Something that annoys me is the penchant for stamp designers to portray people who were high achievers in their youth as old people, despite the fact that images of those people in their prime are easily available.

Anyway, here are some non-philatelic thoughts on growing old, mostly posted on Facebook by younger people who seem blissfully unaware that this is their future too.



Brains of older people are slower because they know so much. It just takes a while to recall something from so much information.

TIPS ON HOW TO FALL ASLEEP IN A LIVING ROOM CHAIR:

- 1. BE OLD**
- 2. SIT IN A CHAIR**

"I've often been asked, 'What do you old folks do now that you're retired?' Well...I'm fortunate to have a chemical engineering background and one of the things I enjoy most is converting beer, wine and vodka into urine. I do it every day and I really enjoy it."

Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting.

Well, for example, the other day, Jim, my husband, and I went into town and visited a shop.

When we came out, there was a cop writing out a parking ticket.

We went up to him and I said, "Come on, man, how about giving a senior citizen a break?"

He ignored us and continued writing the ticket.

I called him an "a**hole".

He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn-out tyres.

So Jim called him a "s*** head".

He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first.

Then he started writing more tickets.

This went on for about 20 minutes.

The more we abused him, the more tickets he wrote.

Just then our bus arrived, and we got on it and went home. We try to have a little fun each day now that we're retired. It's important at our age.

Due to the rising costs of medical tests it is now recommended that you test by peeing under a tree.

If ants gather it is diabetes

If the plants dry up and die it is too much salt in the diet.

If it smells like a barbecue it is high cholesterol.

If you forget to pull up your pants it is Alzheimer's.

You know you are old when...

Your partner says, "Let's go upstairs and make love," and you say, "I can't do both!"

Your friends admire your new crocodile skin shoes, but you are barefoot.

A young woman walks by and your pacemaker opens the garage door.

Going bra-less pulls all the wrinkles out of your face.

Once it was the police, now it's the doctor telling you to slow down.

"Getting lucky" means finding your car in the supermarket parking lot.

An "all-nighter" means not having to get up to go to the bathroom.



I helped my neighbor out with something this morning and she said to me, "I could marry you" I couldn't believe it! You do something nice for someone and they threaten to ruin your life in return.

In Bunnings, some little kid called me an old fart. So if you're missing your kid, he's in the Big Silver Toolbox on aisle 17.

It was a lot more fun being in our twenties in the seventies than it is being in our seventies in the twenties. So take care of yourself and avoid accidents because spare parts for old models like us are no longer in stock.

Australia: 1954 Telegraph Centenary Stamp

The Australian Post Office decided to issue a stamp to mark the Centenary of the *first Australian telegraph service-line* which had opened in March 1854 between Melbourne and Williamstown in Victoria.

A single **3½d rose-red stamp** was issued on 7 April 1954. This denomination covered the cost of a letter within Australia and the British Empire. The stamp was printed from four alto plates each with eight horizontal rows of 10 stamps. No watermark. Perf 14 x 14.5 Quantity issued 39,994,320.



Stamp size: 25 x 38mm.

Printed at the Note Printing Branch,
Commonwealth Bank, Melbourne.

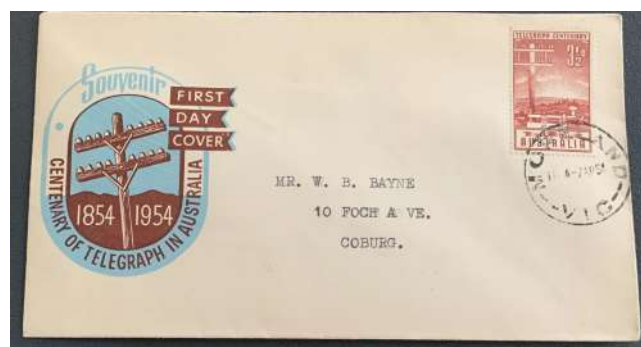
Designed by Peter E. Morriss (1934- ?), and Ralph Malcolm Warner (18 April 1902 Geelong – 26 July 1966 Queensland), it symbolised the function of the service showing a telegraph pole, wires and the “key Clicker” spanning the countryside and looking into a brighter future with the rising sun.

The telegraph system worked by **having an operator tap out code on an electric switch called a ‘key’**, which sent pulses of electricity from a battery along the telegraph wire. The pulses were either short or long, representing the dots and dashes of Morse code.



Library Update

David has updated our library catalogue. As this is a seven page document, we are not including it here but will send it as an attachment to all club members. Our library is extensive and can be used at any time to help improve your knowledge regarding your collection.





Grey

Maryborough



Stamps of Gibraltar

British since 1707 and one of the last colonies and vestiges of the British Empire, this prestigious colony with its famous *Rock of Gibraltar* was strangely *forgotten* within the philatelic world. The Penny Black was issued in May 1840, with other countries and British colonies soon following with postage stamps, yet no actual postage stamp was issued for Gibraltar until 1886!

British stamps had been used from the outset but it wasn't until 1857 that these stamps were even distinguished by being cancelled with a 'G' in a lined oval frame.



Between 1859 to 1885 British stamps were then cancelled with the number 'A26' within a lined oval frame.



In 1886 seven stamps from Bermuda were used and overprinted GIBRALTAR. Finally, in November, 1886 seven stamps inscribed Gibraltar were issued.



The complicated currency system used in Gibraltar, and I quote:

“Until 1872, the currency situation in Gibraltar was complicated, with a system based on the real being employed which encompassed British, Spanish and Gibraltarian coins. From 1825, the real (actually the Spanish real de plata) was tied to the pound at the rate of 1 Spanish dollar to 4 shillings 4 pence (equivalent to 21.67 pence today). In 1872, however, the Spanish currency became the sole legal tender in Gibraltar.[3] In 1898, the Spanish–American War made the Spanish peseta drop alarmingly and the pound was introduced as the sole currency of Gibraltar, initially in the form of British coins and banknotes.

In 1898, sterling coin was made sole legal tender, although the Spanish peseta continued in circulation until the Spanish Civil War.[3] Since 1927, Gibraltar has issued its own banknotes and, since 1988, its own coins. Gibraltar decimalised in 1971 at the same time as the UK, replacing the system of 1 pound = 20 shillings = 240 pence with one of 1 pound = 100 (new) pence.”

As a consequence of this ‘mixed currency usage’ the 1886 issues were overprinted in Spanish currency.



Later in 1889 twelve stamps were actually inscribed with Spanish currency values and issued.



It wasn't until 1898 that eight stamps were again issued in Sterling values:



A prominent feature of the high value issues of King Edward VII and King George V issues are the very collect-able oblong rectangular stamps from 2/- to One Pound.

King Edward VII issues
of 1903



King George V issues
of 1912



The famous *Rock of Gibraltar* finally appeared on King George V issues of 1931, and have been used many times since.



Complete King George VI issues 1938 to 1951.



Grey
Maryborough

Why is this person on a stamp? No. 44: Ronald McNair

Ronald Erwin McNair was born in Lake City, South Carolina, USA in 1950. Despite both his parents having jobs, his father, Carl, was an auto mechanic and his mother, Pearl, was a high school teacher, the family lived in a poor neighbourhood. Even when they moved to a better area, Ron's brother, also Carl, recorded that they had no electricity or running water and collected water from leaks in the roof when it rained.

Even as a child, Ronald showed the fierce determination that was to last all his life. At the age of nine, the boys visited the local library



Carl and Ronald as infants

where Ronald tried to borrow some science books, only to be told by the librarian that the library was "not for coloureds. Ronald placed the books on the counter and said he would wait, then sat down and refused to move.

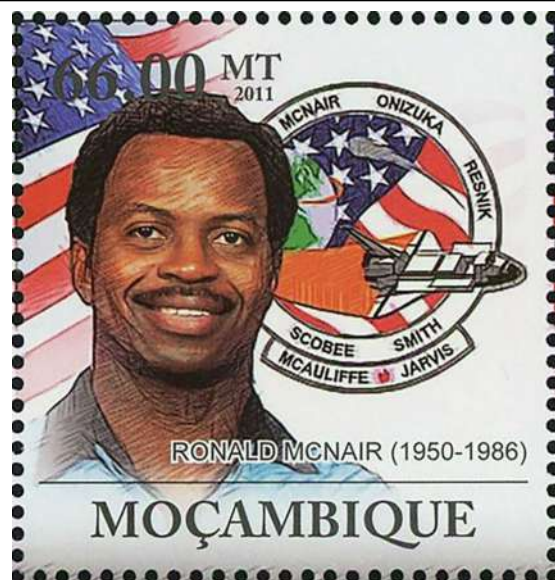
In exasperation, the librarian finally called his mother and the police and an officer arrived but still Ronald refused to move. Eventually, Ronald won his case and was allowed to borrow the books. That would have been an amazing change in South Carolina in 1959. So much so that the building that then housed the library has now been named after him.

According to Carl, Ronald read everything he could find making his way through school and college, finally earning a PhD in Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976.

He was also keen on fitness, earning a fifth degree black belt in karate and winning several championships. In 1978, out of 10,000 applicants, he became one of 35 accepted for astronaut training by NASA making his first flight as a mission specialist on STS-41-B aboard Challenger from February 3 to 11, 1984, and becoming just the second African American to fly in space.

He was then chosen as one of a crew of seven for the STS-51-L Challenger flight on January 28th 1986. Nine miles above the Atlantic ocean and only seventy-one seconds after take-off, Challenger exploded, killing everyone on board.

Ronald was a fine jazz saxophonist and had taken his saxophone with him with the plan to be part of a recording by French composer, Jean-Michel Jarre on a piece of music for Jarre's upcoming album Rendez-Vous. Although this was never to happen, Jarre named the final track on the album Last Rendez-Vous: Ron's Piece.



Challenger space shuttle



Despite the explosion, Ronald's body was recovered. He is buried in the Ronald E. McNair Memorial Park, in Lake City, Southern Carolina, the town that once tried to deny him the right to borrow books from the library.

Among many other places, the McNair crater on the Moon is named in his honor.



BENDIGO Stamp Fair

30th. August 2025

9.30 - 2.30

*Local & Melbourne
Stamp and Coin
Dealers*

*St. Andrews
Uniting Church Hall
24 Myers St. Bendigo*

*Free Entry
Bendigo Philatelic Society
Inc*

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