

COUNTRY CORNER

BULLETIN 9 - August 2007

Bathurst News.

Having attended the Bathex 2007 extravaganza over the two-day weekend of August 4-5, I have to say "Hats off to **Alan Mcrae** and his crew". What a show, what a performance. Simply fantastic.

I have never seen so many different collectables and didn't even know of their existence in many cases. I have organised a few events in my day but would hate to think of the time required by Alan and his crew to put such an event together. A truly mighty effort.

Sue Callan as coordinator and steward for the Stamp section had her job cut out as well. There were 3 Australian states and Dependencies entries, 3 traditional entries, 13 thematic entries, 2 Social entries, 6 Postal Histories and 3 juniors. I make that a count of 30 entries in total making up a good presentation to the public of what stamps are all about. Besides these entries being judged by **Paul Thomas** and myself, there were also a further 4 frames of stamps on display to commemorate the Anniversary of Scouting and a separate Junior section run by **Liz Nahkla** and **Cyril McColough** and their helpers in a separate pavilion.

Without knowing the entrants the judges decided to give the major prize to a traditional entry of George V side faces which happened to be owned by **Norman Binns** of Orange and the runner up was a postal history entry on the use of Deficiency Mail Cards in the late 1960's an entry that apparently belonged to **Derek Dolstra** also of Orange. Believe me there was no bribery involved, just good entries.

After the presentation of the awards there was an evening dinner which I am sorry to say I had to miss to keep my digs open with my friend on a farm outside of Orange but that evening I was awarded a special prize accepted on my behalf by my good friend **Paul Storm** who handed me the award the next day. It was a real surprise to find that the local organisers wanted to reward me for the work in connection with promoting philately to the country. Thank you very much Alan Mcrae and **Ernst Holland** it was a nice spontaneous thought.

What's next?

In early September 8-9 the Northern Beaches Expo is the next cab off the rank. Since last report we now have 9 clubs entered including three from the Country being **Toronto, Wyong and Newcastle** so there is finally a bit of movement along that front. Funny though how all the entrant seem to have come from the region North- East of Sydney. Where are the West and the South?

I hope that the other country societies will now start making an effort for NEXT year. Can I have that as a promise please from all you Country corner recipients?

Howard Lyons managed to slip me a dodger advertising the Coin & Stamp Exhibition Auction and information Spring Fair at the Kenna Hall 90 Hill Street Orange on Saturday 20th October 2007. Make an effort if you can to attend this fair. For a copy of the auction catalogue write to PO Box 9288 Orange 2800 or call 6363 2368 after hours.

Next after that if you have not run out of funds or energy is the Wagga Stamp & Coin Fair on November 24-25 at the Sturt Primary School Hall, White Avenue Koorringal.

"A laugh a day helps keep you sane."

Some further words "stolen" from the "Lundy the Alternative Collection" catalogue.

Gum.

Manufactured locally from broken eggs and Puffin droppings. Can vary from clear to brownish yellow with intermediate shades of patchy or streaky grey or green or even bright pink, depending on Puffin diet at the time.

Beware of stamps with original gum washed off and replaced with that made from pigeon droppings by unscrupulous pigeon fanciers.

A comprehensive handbook detailing the differences in the gum origins is available from most newsagents at £199.99 +VAT.

The compound of the aforesaid puffin droppings proved to be the mainstay of the island's resources, as beside making excellent gum, it was found to have far-reaching properties needed in the manufacture of fertilizer, medicines, cosmetics, embalming fluids, explosives and aphrodisiacs to name but a few.

Also had a nice brief email from **Joan Leigh**

Hello Ed, Our club has written a small item of our doings, at last! Thank you for all the bulletins and information you have sent to us.

Joan Leigh Great Lakes Stamp Club

GREAT LAKES STAMP CLUB

The Great Lakes club has been able to help many local residents who wish to obtain advice about the value of their collection or how to dispose of a collection. If the collection is suitable for auction, naturally, Philas auction is nominated. Members enjoy meeting these people and having the opportunity to see their collecting interest, and the collectors are happy to chat with fellow collectors. Who knows if some might rekindle their collecting enthusiasm? This avenue has proved to be the best promotion for our club at present.

From members of the Great Lakes Stamp Club.

27.06.07

How's this for an idea?

It has been mentioned previously that Philas has available whole year collections of the Australian Stamp Monthly for many years running. These are available free of charge to any club that wishes to avail themselves of lots of informative reading material at little or no charge. A friend of mine is a country traveling rep and may well be able to drop them on your doorstep if only he knew you wanted them. If you are interested drop me a line and I will see what I can do to get these literary gems to you.

Introducing Sonia Davy, Driver of the Twin Towns Stamp Club.

For a change I thought it was time to introduce some country members to the rest of the community and what better place to kick off than in the far north where they don't know whether they are New South Welshman or Queenslanders.

When did I start collecting stamps and why?

Sonia is currently Treasurer of the Twin towns stamp club Inc. but certainly doesn't shy away from a bit of publicity so here goes.

At the age of my 9th Birthday, I can remember getting a Stamp album from my parents and remember being so thrilled as my dad collected stamps and so did my older brothers. My dad, would get used an mint stamps from the Seven Seas Company on a monthly basis, as we lived far out in the country, away from the major city. As children we got to spend our weekly allowance (20 ¢ weekly) on something we wanted. (It didn't go far!)

My dad would return the unpurchased stamps to the company and we would wait for the next batch. My Dad would always purchase the 1st Day of issues of Canadian stamps and place blocks of 4 on the envelopes and then take them to the post office and have them cancelled in the middle. He would address the envelope to each one of us and two for himself. This went on for years, but he never let us have the mint stamps he had purchased for us until he felt we were responsible enough to care for them. I lost interest as I grew older and the collection just sat there but I did bring my collection with me when I came to the Land of Oz in 1970.

Upon arriving in Australia and meeting my husband in Darwin, one day he brought home a 1st Day cover and a few mint stamps of the national development back in 1970 and I was surprised to hear that he collected stamps but not to an extent that it was an organised collection, and he was traveling around the country so it was spasmodic (What a waste of time 1st Day covers turned out to be!) I'm still looking for that person that said, "Stamp Collecting is a great investment". He'll be a sorry person if I find him!

Unfortunately I didn't join a stamp club until I settled in Tweed Heads in 1981. I wish I would have joined a club when I came to Australia and my whole concept of collecting would have changed. I joined twin towns Stamp Club in Tweed Heads back in 1981- gaining more knowledge and listening to the advanced collectors in the club. Quietly I decided to collect used Australian stamps but wanted to diversify my collection to something of interest. I became interested in KG V stamps and Postal Stationery especially of Post Offices that no longer existed. It was interesting to research where the towns were and how long they existed for. I started traveling to stamp days with other members of our club and there would often be 6 or seven of us in a Tarrago going to stamp days what fun it was. I looked for varieties in KGV stamps would purchase material through stamp auction catalogues and some of it still remains untouched to date! (Time Precious Time!) I can remember someone talking about a Wc and my immediate thought went to Water Closet! I knew nothing and when Tuppence-Hay penny was mentioned I would say two and half D. I couldn't get it, as I was never brought up with predecimals. One D to me meant that and not one Penny. One with a stroke, meant I have no idea, and not one shilling!

Upon joining the Twin Towns Stamp Club, I became involved helping with the Circuit books and that was really interesting. I then became secretary of the club and remained in that position for nine years when I couldn't think of any more ideas, for the club for things to do, I laid low for a few years and just helped in the background.

I then decided to exhibit, I can remember exhibiting for the first time at club level, with 30 pages and the feedback was terrific, but because I was to exhibit in Newcastle the next weekend and the exhibit had to be there early in the week, and we were leaving for Newcastle the next day, I went home and redid 16 pages that night before going to bed. What a task, and being a Novice at State level, with my thematic collection of "Orchid stamps" I was really excited and when the medal levels were posted I can remember dancing around being so excited because I had obtained a Bronze medal. I felt I had won GOLD as we all do, we never think our collection is good enough. I continued to exhibit the "Orchid" theme for quite a few years, and then became despondent at the attitude of the judges so the collection went away and has been away since. Last year I put in 15 pages into northern beaches Show for our club. My interest is really thematic, the concept of exhibiting still has a place in my heart, but I have to get it together, maybe one of my other themes may come to light!

I find material difficult to obtain and am constantly looking. One day I'll get there! I have also held the position of Vice President of the club for 4 years and just wanted to be there in the background position, I have had the position of Treasurer for the past three years and am happy doing my thing.

Along with a few of my stamp collecting friends, we travel to various Stamp shows in Australia and have certainly got to know a lot of people, and love the enthusiasm of the great exhibitors and collectors. Always, when a2wayw it is great to find out what clubs have meetings while we are in the area and attend them to find out how they run their club

I think the most meetings I have attended in one week was eleven in seven days, and a great pleasure to meet members of other clubs and see how they run their clubs. If I have met you it has been my pleasure and I hope we will meet again somewhere. I like to make the effort to attend meetings at Philas if in Sydney at that time or go o Brisbane to the QPC meeting. There are some great collectors out there, who have certainly done a lot more than I have, and I just wanted to share how I became involved and will remain so for as long as I am on this planet. Cheer to ALL and Thank You, for the opportunity of sharing a meager short story.

*Yours truly **Sonia.***

Tail Piece.

It was nice to receive notification via email from **Kevin Smith** the new president of at the Wyong Stamp Club that they were entering this years NBSE competition. It may have been a late start but they are in!

Similarly Newcastle had indicated that they would step up if we gave them the nod. As Newcastle has a number of serious long standing collectors I mentioned to them, that I would prefer the One Frame competition to be used as an introductory event for newer members or newer material. It is pleasing to see that the Newcastle executive understood what I mean and have entered the game in the right spirit. **John Moore** is coordinating their entry.

Peter Madden is doing a great job in stepping into the shoes of the late **Bob Smith** at the New Lake near Newcastle wher they run avery active Junior group. Like all of us Peter could do with some help from other locals in promoting the hobby .

How about dropping me a line to let me know the results of your recent AGM's as far as changes in official position is concerned. It is difficult to believe that all clubs have retained all of their executives in the same position for yet another year.

Remember I am trying to turn this bulletin into your forum but can only do this if YOU respond.

What's the Goss and what are the "Hot" topics you want resolved?????

Till next time
Ed Wolf