OPEN LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

Time rushes on and both the National ABPS meeting in Sheffield and our own Convention are behind us. The general consensus was that the Convention Hotel was good, there was plenty of parking, the rooms were comfortable and the staff friendly and helpful. With the odd minor blemish, the food was good too. If they maintain the standard and the competitive pricing, we shall use it again, but next time I must provide a better map to find it!

While we were enjoying ourselves in Sindlesham, a number of members were having success with their entries in the Sheffield competitions. In particular we must congratulate our new President, John Crowe on his Large Gold for “The Trail Blazers – Pioneer Flights of the England – Australia Route” which also carried off the prize for the Best Federation Aerophilately entry. Alan Griffiths won Gold for “Penny Wise”, previewed at London meetings; Patrick Reid won Gold for “Tasmania – The CTMS/T Tax Marks 1904-1939” and Vermeil for “Tasmania – The Private Letter Cards”, and John Sussex won Large Vermeil for “Irish Forerunners” these four entries being in the One-Frame class. John also won Gold for his “Postal History of South West Africa” and Alan Whittaker won Large Vermeil for his “Development of the Airmail Routes of Queensland 1926-1938”. I cannot remember when we last had so many entrants in National Competition.

We must now turn our attention to getting members to provide ‘Philatelic Gems’ from their collections to be featured in our book for Australasia 2012. I have had a few offerings and a few promises, but we need to assemble around thirty-five items. If you have an item in your collection that you consider a particular gem, then please send me a scan and a description that together make up an A4 sheet. I look forward to receiving them.

A fairly short one this time, to avoid missing the Editor’s deadline by too much.

PGER 16/5/11

AUSTRALIAN PHILATELY IN PRINT #3, 2011.

A list of articles found in Journals & Bulletins held by the Librarian (Periodicals).

Editorial.
From the President.
Australian QEII Definitive Stamps Pt.3, by John Young.
Australia Post Melbourne Timelines, by Brian Fuller.
“Danks” for the Memories Pt.2, by John Lancaster.
1946 International Reply Paid Coupon from Couvin, Belgium.
Hand-Held Date Stamps, co-ordinated by George Vearing.

APF NEWS, Vol.25, No.1, March 2011.
President’s view, by David Figg.
Adrian Brown Memorial Trust.
Portugal 2010 – Australian awards.
Joburg 2010 – Australian awards.
Palmpex 2010 – Australian Awards.
Mandurah 2010 Fair – Awards.
Indipex 2011 – Australian awards.
Australian Philatelic Federation Frames Sponsorship Programme.
Youth Philately around Australia, by Linda Lee.
GEEPEX 80: National One Frame Philatelic Exhibition – Prospectus.
Australian Philatelic Federation archival products.
Exhibition Timetable.

Editorial.
Opening up the New Zealand Postal Service, by David Miner.
Pastcards: Some Australian Trees, by Peter Cheah.
Newsletter No.142, February 2011.

CINDERELLAS AUSTRALASIA, Vol.25, No.1, April 2011.
Secretary’s Page, by Paul Storm.
From the Editor’s Desktop.
Owen Island and Dependency, by Ron Davis, Newcastle.
Petrol rationing and the Post Office in Australia, 1940-1950, by John Dibiase.

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY, May 2011.
Raymond Todd to be a new RDP signatory.
2009-2010 Postal Stationery (incl. Australia and Australian Antarctic Territory) by Geir Sør-Reime.

THE INFORMER, Vol.75, No.1, January 2011
Tasmania’s Private Pictorial Letter Cards by Patrick Reid.
Late implementation of New UPU Postage Due Rules by NSW by Peter Granfield.
Comment on: Robert Stein’s “Nauru Airmails Pt.1: 1926-1944” by Brian Pope.
Fiji’s First Imprinted Air Letter Printer’s Proof by Jerry Kasper.
Allan Berry Remembered by Robert P Odenweller.
Nauru: Various flaws in the 1975 Phosphate Mining Issue.
New Marshall Island datestamps by Steven Zirinsky.
More Pacific Area Postal Markings by Steven Zirinsky.
British Solomon Islands: The War Years 1939-1945 by Joel L Bromberg (Preview of New Book).
1960 Christmas Stamps and the King James Bible by Dale White.
Review of “New Zealand Stamps Overprinted ‘OPSP’” by David McNamee.

THE INFORMER, Vol.75, No.2, April 2011
A study of the Tasmania Lithographed Halfpenny Pictorial with OS Perfin by Jerry Weirich.
The Colony of North Australia (1846-1847) by Peter Granfield.
Victoria’s Registered and Too Late Stamps: a Micro-Engraving Discovery by Les Molnar.
A Nearly Missed Clipper Sailing by John Barwis.
Nauru: Use of Local Postage by Prabir Datta.
Kiss-Prints on KGV Nauru Seahorse Overprints by Robert C Stein.
Revenue and Railway Perfin Book for Queensland by Dave Elsmore and David Coath.
Charity Stamps of Three Australian States by William McD Herr.

THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Vol.120, No.1384, April 2011
Philotelic Shade Discrimination Based on Measured Colour, by David L Herendeen FRPSL, James A Allen & Thomas Lera.

THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Vol.120, No.1385, ay 2011
Philotelic Shade Discrimination Based on Measured Colour - Corrigenda by David L Herendeen FRPSL,
Election of new signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (Gavin Fryer, Koichi Sato and Ray Todd OAM).
RPSL Dinner during Sydney Stamp Expo, Australia.

PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA, Vol.LXIII, No.1, March 2011.
Editorial.
Stanley Gibbons Catalogues from 1865 to 1915, by Graeme Kenneth Loyer.
Rocky Mountains Philatelic Library: Thoughts of a new member, by John Shawley.
Exhibition Awards for RPSV Members.
Nauru 1954 5/-, an error of design? by Geoff Kellow RDP.
100 years & 50 years ago
Royal News.
Adrian Brown Memorial Trust.
Our Apologies: omissions from exhibitions.

STAMP MAGAZINE, September 2010.
Queensland 1865 (Quaint stampless entire from Valley of Lagoons PO) sold at auction for £430.
Sir Edward Bacon – 150th anniversary, by Joan Winchester.

STAMP NEWS, Vol.58, No.4, April 2011.
Editorial; Editor’s Mailbag; Philatelic News; New Issues; Clubs & Societies; Dealers Directory; Calendar.
Woodchip free zone: (Usage. Is this the next big ‘thing’ in philately? – re-visited) by Rod Perry.
Market Matters (“Sydney Stamp Expo 2011” is here – also ebay fakes) by Glen Stephens.
A closer look at Modern Australian Stamps, by Chris de Haer.
Revenue Review, by Dave Elsmore.
Cinderella Corner, by Tony Presgrave.
Introducing the Australian Philatelic Federation Pt.12, by John Sadler.
Some 13 members gathered to hear David Beech of the British Library talk to us about ‘Philatelic Preservation’.

As an introduction, David enquired how many had visited the British Library Philatelic Exhibitions and how many people were aware that there was a permanent display of 1000 frames (about 1% of the Library’s holdings). The response was that relatively few had visited or seen the permanent display. Accepting that the Collection was not strong in Australian Commonwealth, but was strong in the States, all were encouraged to visit and view.

In response to a query, David told us that they are still collecting ‘Cinderella’ material that will no doubt be eagerly studied in the future.

On to the subject of the evening, we were told that the Library has a Conservation Studio, built at a cost of £16million, the largest in Europe.

The presentation took the form of a Powerpoint show with informal interaction between speaker and audience. We were reminded of the Philatelic cycle:

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  ┌─ Temporary Storage ─┐
  │ │
  Original Find Market Mounted
  │ │
  └─ Exhibited ┘
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The biggest potential problem affecting collectors today is storage (stockbooks, protectors, mounts and the like). The ONLY acceptable plastic is polyester. All others affect material to a greater or lesser degree. So when buying such items you should always ask “Is it polyester” and only accept that. We were shown
examples of Pitcairn stamps that had been damaged by being stored in PVC ‘protectors’. It was noted that printing inks on stamps post about 1930-40 react with PVC.

Self-adhesive tape is a BAD idea. It will eventually fall off covers and leave a nasty stain which is impossible to remove. (Conservation tape is acceptable)

However carefully done, handling causes problems, mostly with dirt and surface rubs.

It is recommended that arricators should not be used other than over a protective polyester film.

Sometimes the material itself is a problem. Postcards in particular tend to be printed on acidic paper and the acid can leach into mounting pages.

Exposure to light, causing fading, is a well-known problem. The maximum sustained light level should not exceed 50 lux, or 200 lux for short periods. Scanning does not damage material. We were treated to horror stories about the light levels at some FIP exhibitions, and David expressed serious concerns about the damage that can be done over a week to prime material.

The ideal range of temperature and humidity is under 18 degrees Centigrade and 55-60% Relative humidity.

Amateur bleaching of foxing is not recommended. If you wish it repaired, give it to a professional conservator.

Other sources of problems can be: iron gall ink that eats through paper over time, and silverfish and book lice eating your books and covers.

Mounting paper should be pH neutral (there is an ISO number).

Brian Peace gave the vote of thanks and complimented David on such an interesting and informative evening. He remarked that he had learned a great deal and that the interaction had shown how helpful, enjoyable and interesting the whole evening had been.

Note: For a more extensive read, please go to http://sherpa.bl.uk/52/ where you will find David’s paper “How to look after your Collection – A Basic Guide”

Membership Secretary/Treasurer’s list of changes to membership database from 14 March 2011 to 14 May 2011

Resignations:
1548 Fordham NJ

Removed from membership for non-payment of subscriptions (rule 3(e))
974 Johnston AH

Deceased:
1499 Hornsby HJ (Oct 2010)
1505 Harrison IH (4 Feb 2011)

New members:
1796 Jeffries B Cooma, NSW 2630, Australia
1797 Fake MJ Epsom Downs, Surrey KT18 5TX
1798 Pearce HJ Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8HS
1799 Jefferies H Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH
REPORT OF THE 2011 BSAP CONVENTION HELD IN SINDLESHAM

Following check-in on Friday and a reception kindly sponsored by Prestige Philately we had an informal dinner in our dedicated room which was enjoyed by all. The informal proceedings continued with the now traditional quiz, set by the Hon. Secretary. This year the format was different again. Each table formed a team and the questions were tackled by all tables. The questions included General Knowledge as well as Philately. Congratulations to the team led by Laurence Kimpton who were the winners.

The formal proceedings opened on the Saturday morning with a minute’s silence in memory of the five members and three distinguished former members known to have passed away during the past year. The necessary Fire and Facilities notices were read out.

The Eric Ash Memorial Display followed, given by Peter Clarkson. Peter covered many aspects of collecting and devoted much of his display to the development of new services and techniques for earning money.

Peter began with a few sheets that illustrated how we started – buying stamps in packets and swapping with friends, with no thought for what we now know as Postal History.

He followed with a range of Specimen sets, including those known as the ‘Miller’ issues and some that were presentation sets. He noted that high values were overprinted and sold in order to make money from collectors. A range of issues overprinted Specimen in a variety of fonts was shown with the suggestion that they might have been used as training stamps.

Our memories were tested by a range of covers sent underpaid to America addressed to film stars. Apparently the studios refused to pay the Postage Due, but the letters were never returned to sender. Historic names to conjure with included Anna May Wong and Sonja Henie.

There followed a serious look at some First Day Cover services, including ‘Mitchell’ covers and those from Hadjikyriakos, Challis (Tom Thurgood) and Guthrie, all based in Perth.

Moving on to newer services we were shown labels for the ‘Across-Town’ service which was short-lived and real used examples are very scarce; also the Box-link service offered between PO Boxes within a city. Another new service was ‘Quickstamps’ offered from machines in banks, and known colloquially as ‘AT Stamps’ (Automated Teller stamps).

The next section covered the introduction and use of Counter Printed stamps (including trial stamps). The Tritech 1 machine used for printing the values was slow, inaccurate and unreliable, as were the successors the Tritech 2 and 2A. All machines had problems dealing with the end of the paper roll. Needless to say, correctly used Counter Printed stamps are very difficult to find.

Perth adopted Monotel machines that produced different lettering on the stamps. In Canberra they experimented with ‘Postal Retail Units’ that lasted six months. Adelaide used the Monarch 4561 that provided yet another different printing. All these attempts at automations eventually came to an end.

A section on booklets followed, including a feature on the Australian Forces in Korea booklets and their forgeries and pages on the excesses of the ‘Footy’ booklets of more recent times. Finally Peter showed us a section of what he is known for, the koalas and kangaroos in the margins to denote the reprint number of the sheet.
The Chairman, in giving his vote of thanks, complimented Peter on the quirkiness and refreshing nature of his display and presented him with the Society’s Certificate.

The Annual General Meeting followed a break for coffee. Full details are elsewhere in this issue.

After lunch, the Auction comprised just under 400 lots, and prices realised were good, with a good percentage of sales. A useful contribution to Society funds is expected. During the Auction, the Competitions were judged by your President and our Guest of Honour, Professor Derek Diamond of the New Zealand Society. They were available for viewing later in the afternoon. Results are reported later.

The pre-dinner reception this year was special, as for the first time we had a reception sponsored by the host hotel.

The dinner went off smoothly, with excellent service from the hotel staff. When all had dined, Mr Colin Mount, the Master of Ceremonies invited your President to propose the Loyal Toast before a short break. John Crowe proposed the Ladies and Guests with a response from Professor Derek Diamond that was interesting and amusing and drew parallels between the Australian and New Zealand societies. He proposed the toast to the Society, and the speeches closed with a response from our President.

The President then presented the Society Awards. The President’s Trophy for research was awarded to Richard Guy for his ongoing contribution to research on the GV and other issues. The Tony Brander Trophy for services to the Society was awarded to Colin Salt for his work as Bulletin Editor. Peter Clarkson was awarded the Society’s medal for the Eric Ash Display.

On then to the presentation of the Competition Awards. Patrick Reid won the Alan Davidson Trophy for his entry on the Railway Stamps of Tasmania. The J B Williamson Rosebowl was won by John Crowe for his entry Flying the Tasman – a fine Airmail display. The Bob Emery Tankard went to Tony Finlayson for a display of Military Scene Letter cards. The Open Competition was won by Tony Finlayson with a display on Olive May King and her experiences in WWI. The proceedings concluded with the Raffle draw, expertly managed by Colin and Margaret Mount.

On the Sunday morning there was a critique of the exhibits given by Alan Griffiths and Derek Diamond. Feedback was both general and individual, and it was viewed as being both constructive and helpful. After the break for coffee, we had a series of short displays, time-limited by the Secretary (but no sanctions were required). The following members displayed:

Margaret Noack: Douglas Mawson
Dee Pullan: Aircraft Crash Mail
Laurence Kimpton: Air mail (more Crash covers!) and the Aoteroa delivery flight
Alan Cross: Postage Due including large blocks and monograms
Lea Wilson: Western Australia including Cycle & Camel mail and Lake Lefroy material
Tom Gillespie: Empire labels and commercial envelopes
Ian Spencer: Revenues; Rail Covers ‘value letters’, Lady Gowrie and Duchess of Gloucester labels
Keith Hayes: KGV varieties from Panes I and III
Peter Clarkson: Imprint blocks (including some at the top!)
John Cole: KGV errors and a cover with 84 stamps on it.
John Crowe: Air Mail covers that did not go by Air Mail
Following a time for viewing, the President formally closed the Convention at about 12.15 pm, giving plenty of time for lunch and journeys home

THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN PHILATELY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Moat House Hotel, Sindlesham, Reading on 7th May 2011.

Those present: Bill Burt; Colin Mount; Tony Finlayson; Dave Speer; Neil Russell; Keith Hayes; Alan Cross; Les Wallis; John Crowe; Brian Peace; Alan Griffiths; Tom Gillespie; Laurence Kimpton; John Sims; David Plant; Graham Keates; Ian Perry; Patrick Reid; John Cole; Alan Whittaker; Sandy Forbes; Roger Elliott; Ian Spencer; Christine Earle; Dee Pullan; Lorraine Fitzwater; Margaret Noack; Peter Clarkson; Lea Wilson; Hugh Williams; Michael Baughan; Malcolm Price; Steve Irwin.

Apologies: Brian Sullman; Dick Ashdown; Tom McCarthy.

1. Minutes of the 2010 AGM

These had been published in the Bulletin. A motion to accept as a true record was proposed by John Sims, seconded by Tom Gillespie and carried unanimously.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. President’s Address

Our president, Alan Griffiths, commented that both the Society and the hobby are continuing to lose support despite the best efforts of Council and others. Our Society has a good ‘hard core’ of individual members that continue to support our activities and it is pleasing to see some new faces here today. He extended his thanks to the Council under the Chairmanship of Brian Peace for keeping everything running smoothly: to Keith Hayes, our Treasurer, for stopping us being profligate in our spending, to Pat Reid for keeping the administration ticking over and other Council members who have carried out their various duties in a diligent manner.

The advent of games consoles and the like has distracted individuals from what were traditional pursuits such as Meccano and Stamp Collecting (with the spin-off development of historic and geographic knowledge and engineering understanding) in their pursuit of a quick buzz.

He feels that he has not done a great deal as President other than to be there, to represent the Society and he has kept us moving forward over the last two years

The adoption of the President’s report was proposed by Michael Baughan, seconded by Sandy Forbes and carried unanimously

4. Secretary’s Report

This had been published in the Convention Brochure. No questions were raised and the report was accepted unanimously.
5. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer presented the Report and Financial Statements which had been distributed to the meeting. What follows is a summary of his report.

The Society lost £1895 during the year, mostly because of the move to colour printing of the Bulletin ahead of the raising of subscriptions for 2011. The increase in printing and stationery costs was mostly for a Society handout that was used at London 2010 and helped bring in new members. [Note: the Secretary holds supplies of this handout.] Insurance costs have been reduced by taking a decision to self-insure for the packet.

Receipts from auctions have been good and packet receipts have increased.

Bank interest was down as most of the resources have been invested in a one-year bond that will mature next (financial) year. This bond will be rolled-over for a further 12 months.

HMRC have agreed a 5-year holiday from Corporation Tax.

Your council continue to work for reduced costs and have obtained a substantially reduced quotation for Bulletin printing. Steps have also been taken to reduce the cost of Council meetings.

Membership has declined, but only slightly during the year. We hope that current efforts will at worst keep numbers steady next year.

Michael Baughan asked about Royalties and the arrangements were explained by the Treasurer.


In the absence of the Exchange Packet Superintendent, The Secretary read out his report.

The Packet is a service provided for members but dependant upon both vendors and buyers for its success. It should cover its costs and contribute to the Society’s net income by way of the commissions paid by vendors.

Net commissions at £564 are not an unreasonable return but the impact of insurance costs (£794 of which only £536 recovered by way of the 3% levy on vendors) reduces this “surplus” to £306.

Insurance premiums, already high, seem to be on an ever upward spiral so your Council has adopted a policy of “self insurance” of packets in circulation, any loss being underwritten by the Society itself, while the stock held by the Superintendent continues to be covered by an external insurer.

The contents of each packet is limited to £500 by value and no packet has been lost in the past two years; however, given the chance that Murphy’s Law will strike, the 3% premium charged to vendors is being continued to create a “sinking fund”; also, a significant part of the £794 annual premium will no longer be payable.

So a general appeal to all participants to follow the Packet Rules to ensure, as far as possible, that should there be a future loss it is not of our own making. **Whenever practicable pass the packet, by hand, even if this will result in an extra day or two delay in circulation.**
With regular increases in postal charges there could well come a time when those members receiving the packet will reconsider whether it’s value for money, so the more new worthwhile material received the better the prospects for the continuity of the service and, hopefully, the greater returns to vendors and the Society alike.

The Treasurer estimates the insurance saving at £600 in the first year.

7. Auction Organiser’s Report

The amount received in commission has increased this year. Particular thanks are due to a senior member of the Society who donated lots so that the entire proceeds went to the Society and to Peter Smith-Keary who submitted about 500 lots (not all in today’s sale) many of which are of high value. Thanks are due to all who have submitted material. Please keep it coming in.

8. Report of the Librarian

Eleven books have been added to the Library, all listed in the Bulletin. Most members using the Library have obeyed the rules. A reminder that Library Lists are available for £2.


In the absence of the Editor, the Secretary read his report.

The Bulletin is now firmly established in the new colour format and during the year the content has ranged over a wide range of Australian philatelic matters.

I have received a steady stream of articles and queries, the response to the latter has been excellent.

As always I appeal for members to write up their specialities and share the information with us all. I am always available to help with putting articles together – please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have been greatly encouraged by many favourable comments I have received about the Bulletin and my only regret is that circumstances prevent me from being here today to present this report in person.

Christine Earle enquired who had reported on TROVE (Australian Newspaper archive) which is an invaluable resource and is being added to at a rate of 100,000 pages per month.

10. Publicity Officer’s Report

Dick Ashdown has sent his apologies.

The acceptance of the reports was proposed by Michael Baughan, seconded by Sandy Forbes and carried unanimously.

11. Election of Officers

The President will retire on the conclusion of his duties at dinner this evening, when his successor will be installed.
The Secretary and Treasurer have indicated their willingness to continue to serve, and no alternative candidates have been proposed.

12. Election of Council

Two of the members offering themselves for re-election were not opposed. Dick Ashdown has indicated his willingness to stand down (now that a replacement to take on Publicity duties has been identified) if a member offers to join council in his place. Huw Williams was nominated by John Sims, seconded by William Burt and duly elected.

The Society thanks Dick Ashdown for his service over many years. The Secretary will write to him.

13. Election of Hon. Auditor

Steve Irwin has indicted his willingness to continue.

The elections of the Auditor was proposed by Colin Mount, seconded by Les Wallis and carried unanimously.


Colin Mount thanked all those who had agreed to give displays. It is becoming more difficult to get people to do a full presentation. He encouraged those who had 30-40 sheets (or more) to display to offer to do part of an evening (or afternoon).

Steps have been taken to reduce the printing costs of the Bulletin. Brian Peace believes that the advance of technology will continue to keep the cost stable or reducing.

Following a suggestion from the floor, the Secretary will consult with the Pacific Islands Study Circle about possible electronic distribution of the Bulletin. That method of distribution raises concerns about unauthorised secondary distribution.

15. Any Other Business

Colin Mount thanked the President who, in spite of his self-effacing remarks, had done a good job for the Society.

The meeting, led by Christine Earle offered thanks to Council for organising the weekend Convention.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.57.

P G E Reid
Hon. Secretary 5/5/10