



AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC FEDERATION LTD

## WHY JOIN A STAMP CLUB?

*“Stamp clubs put the life into your hobby”*

**I**f you collect stamps then you can't afford not to be a member of a stamp club!

**S**tamp clubs provide their members with the opportunity to meet with like-minded people and to share information about their hobby. They are also a great source of stamps for your collection.

**M**any collectors hesitate before visiting a stamp club because they may regard themselves as 'only beginners' or for other reasons. Don't think this way. We were all beginners once.

**J**oin a club today and you will never look back.

**S**tamp clubs are full of people from all walks of life who, just like you, enjoy collecting stamps.

All members of stamp clubs were beginners at one time and most are more than willing to share their knowledge and experience with you. This knowledge will more than compensate for the cost of being a member.

The members of stamp clubs cover the full spectrum of stamp collectors, from those who collect new issues from Australia Post, to those who have only very limited stamp budgets through to those who exhibit at national exhibitions. All value the benefits of their memberships in their stamp club and the friendships and contacts it brings.

### ***How do out find out about stamp clubs?***

Stamp clubs (or philatelic societies) exist in most areas. For details of stamp clubs near you please contact the philatelic council in your state. Contact details are given at the end of this brochure or try [www.apf.org.au](http://www.apf.org.au).

### ***What can a Stamp Club provide?***

Most stamp clubs offer:

- an opportunity to obtain stamps at reasonable prices through their exchange books
- stamp fairs and exhibitions
- displays or visiting speakers
- newsletters or magazines
- purchasing schemes for books and accessories
- access to catalogues and books on stamps

But above all, stamp clubs offer the friendship, knowledge and experience of their members who help you with advice on all aspects of collecting including:

- identifying stamps
- where to get stamps
- storing and housing your collection
- ideas on new collecting areas
- assistance with exhibiting.

### ***Exchange Books***

Most clubs have exchange books which contain stamps which members of the club are seeking to sell. Many collectors join stamp clubs primarily for access to the exchange books which enable them to sell their duplicate stamps as well as to buy stamps at reasonable prices.

Best of all, many clubs allow you to look at these exchange books in the comfort and convenience of your own home.

### ***Stamp Markets, Stamp Fairs and Exhibitions***

Many clubs run stamp markets, stamp days or open days. Whatever they are called they provide the opportunity for you to look for items to add to your collection. There are always a number of stamp dealers present, and local clubs will usually have a table offering memberships, help and information. They may also have their exchange books at the fair and sometimes those of other clubs as well.

For details of local stamp markets please contact your local club or your state philatelic council. Stamp markets may also be advertised in stamp magazines or the local press.

Stamp Fairs are held regularly in many parts of Australia and are usually organised by stamp dealers. Details are usually available in stamp magazines or the local press, or try the **Australian Philatelic Traders' Association (APTA)** at [www.apta.com.au](http://www.apta.com.au).

Stamp Exhibitions are organised by clubs or by state philatelic councils and include competitive displays of stamps and other philatelic material. In addition they usually include a good range of dealers. For details of exhibitions in your state please contact your state philatelic council.

National and International Stamp Exhibitions are held much less frequently, but are well worth attending when you see them advertised. They usually have a great range of world class exhibits and many national and international stamp dealers attend. These are without a doubt your best source of material, and your local stamp club is usually the first place to find out about the next big exhibition.

### ***Information on stamps***

Many clubs have a library which may consist only of a few catalogues and some magazines, or it may have a large and extensive collection of early books on stamps as well as magazines up to 100 years old or more! If your local club can't help you with a difficult query, someone in the club will know where to seek help. The state councils can also help point you towards a good philatelic library.

The APF also runs a research service with contacts in each State. Please contact your state philatelic council or the APF for details, [www.apf.org.au/research](http://www.apf.org.au/research).

### ***Displaying your stamps***

Stamp clubs also provide you with a chance to share your pleasure in your collection with others. This can range from an informal talk at your local club to showing off your "gems" through local, State, National and International Competitive Exhibitions. If you are interest in exhibiting, your state philatelic council or the APF can provide you with a free booklet to assist you.

### ***Junior Clubs***

Many stamp clubs exist specifically for younger collectors. In addition, many stamp clubs welcome younger collectors or provide special activities for them. For details please contact your local club or your state philatelic council.

Stamp collecting can be a great hobby for the whole family.

### ***Specialised Clubs***

In addition to local stamp clubs there are many specialised groups which can help you enjoy your new collecting interests.

These include clubs for collectors of postal history, postal stationery, thematics, aerophilately, first day covers, polar philately and cinderellas as well as clubs for collectors of particular countries. For information on such clubs please contact your state council or try some of the web addresses listed below.

### ***Costs of being a member***

One of the great benefits of being a member of a stamp club is that it costs so little. Even the most expensive club or society cost less than a \$1 a week, with most costing considerably less. The savings you will make on stamps, books and accessories will more than repay the cost of joining a stamp club.

### ***Other Benefits***

The pleasures and friendships that you will get from joining a stamp club will last a lifetime and are quite simply – priceless.

### ***Philately on the Web***

The Internet is a wonderful source of information and contacts for stamp collectors. Many stamp clubs, dealers, post offices and individual collectors have web sites. Some useful sites are:

Australian Philatelic Federation  
[www.apf.org.au/](http://www.apf.org.au/)

Australia Post:  
[www.auspost.com.au/](http://www.auspost.com.au/)

Australian Philatelic Traders 'Association  
[www.apta.com.au](http://www.apta.com.au)

American Philatelic Society  
[www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org)

Joe Luft's Philatelic Resources  
<http://my.execpc.com/~joeluft/resource.html>

Exponet – an amazing assembly of over 700 collections  
[www.japhila.cz](http://www.japhila.cz)

Please note however, that as with all dealings on the web, *caveat emptor* applies or let the buyer beware. Another reason to be a member of a stamp club – to get advice about web sites and traders.

#### **For Further Information**

[www.apf.org.au](http://www.apf.org.au)  
or

Contact your State Council

ACT: ACT Philatelic Council,  
GPO Box 980 CANBERRA ACT 2601  
NSW: Philatelic Development Council - NSW  
PO Box 220 Darlinghurst NSW 1300  
QLD: Queensland Philatelic Council  
PO Box 941 Wynnum Plaza PO  
WYNNUM WEST QLD 4178  
SA/NT: South Australian Philatelic Council

GPO Box 9800 ADELAIDE SA 5001  
TAS: Tasmanian Stamp Council  
GPO Box 9800 HOBART TAS 7001  
VIC: Victorian Philatelic Council  
GPO Box 9800 MELBOURNE VIC 3001  
WA: Western Australian Philatelic Council  
GPO Box 9800 PERTH WA 6001

(Further contact details, including e-mail addresses, are available on the APF website.)

Other brochures in this series are available from the Australian Philatelic Federation or your State Council:

- 1 Why Collect Stamps?*
- 3 I have just inherited a stamp collection - Where do I go from here?*
- 4 I have just rediscovered my old stamp collection – where do I go from here?*
- 5 Where do I get stamps for my collection?*
- 6 Beyond Australia!*
- 7 How can I identify and value my stamps?*
- 8a An introduction to exhibiting – Part 1*
- 8b An introduction to exhibiting – Part 2*
- 9 Thumbnail Descriptions of the Exhibition Classes*
- 10 An introduction to stamp collecting*
- 11 Using the Internet to Widen Your Research Boundaries*