

## **Introducing the Australian Philatelic Federation** **By Ian McMahon, Philatelic Development Officer, APF**

This month I look at a proposal for the APF to introduce a Subject Philately Class at national exhibitions, Adelaide Stampex 2014, a publication on the APF replica cards, the second in the Abandoned Stamp Card series and the second part of an outline of the role of an Australian Commissioner to an international exhibition.

### **Topical philately**

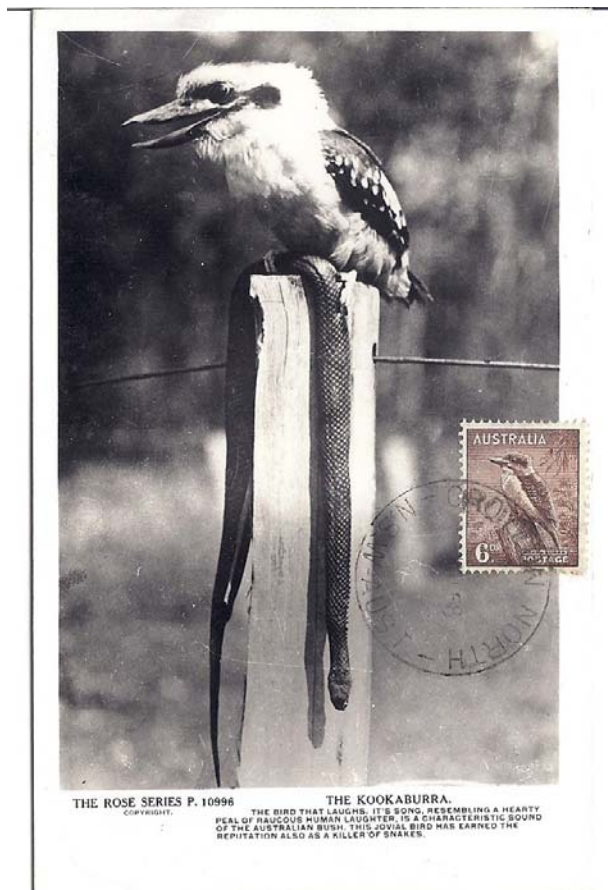
The APF has been discussing the introduction of a Topical or Subject Class at National level.

While there is a well established Thematic Philately Class available at National and International levels, there is a group of collectors who collect by subject and for whom the Thematic Philately Class does not provide a way for them to exhibit which matches their collecting interests. While the two classes may sound similar, they are in many ways quite different. Exhibitors in the Thematic Philately Class must develop a detailed theme while exhibitors in the Subject Class would be able to concentrate on stamps showing a particular topic.

Exhibitors in Thematic Philately must arrange their stamps with a detailed theme which will often involve showing stamps not showing their topic. For, example, a thematic exhibit on cars might include chapters on car makers and designers, environmental impact, fuel and manufacturing and include stamps and philatelic material illustrating these chapters and not showing cars. A thematic exhibit on birds might include chapters on bird evolution, bird adaptations, man and birds, bird habitats, food and predators and again include philatelic material not showing birds.



Emu shown on a New South Wales stationery



Kookaburra Maximum Card



Loon shown on a postal stationery postcard from Canada

Many collectors collect by subject. They may collect stamps showing birds, mammals, flowers, cars, planes or another topic. In a subject philately class, they would be able to exhibit their stamps in a manner which comes naturally to a collector of subject or topic philately. For example, a collector of bird stamps would be able to display their stamps in taxonomic order ie showing stamps organised by the various groups of birds such as penguins, albatross, herons etc. A display of cars could be arranged by car maker, by model or by year of production.

The APF discussion paper on the proposed new class gives the intent of the class as ‘to provide collectors the opportunity to exhibit material which in itself, or when grouped together, would not be suited to either the Traditional or Thematic classes’. Subject philately is distinguished from Thematic philately as follows: Subject: A “branch of knowledge” or “course of study” as chosen by the exhibitor; Thematic: An elaborate “story book” approach from start to finish, which expands upon and develops beyond the initial “branch of knowledge” or “course of study”. In a subject exhibit, the connection between the items in the exhibit will be by subject shown and not a thematic theme or Traditional Country. There must be a connection between the items in the exhibit.

The subject exhibit must include philatelic material only. [Exhibits wishing to include non-philatelic material should consider the Open Class as the avenue to exhibit. Exhibits wishing to include private First Day Covers (FDCs) need to consider the First Day Cover Class as the avenue to exhibit]. The marking system would be as follows: Treatment 25, Philatelic Knowledge 20, Subject Knowledge 20, Condition 10, Rarity - Difficulty of Acquisition 20, Presentation 5.

The Introduction Page would be evaluated on whether if it:

- Introduces the purpose of the exhibit
- Defines the scope of the exhibit
- Explains the structure of the exhibit
- Has a plan of the exhibit
- Mentions the most important literature/references

The Treatment in Subject philately embraces all elements of philately as outlined below:

- All philatelic elements acceptable in other FIP classes; and
- All elements initiated, introduced, or approved by a bona fide postal service that otherwise would not be acceptable in any FIP class (eg. Cinderellas, presentation folders, publicity material, FDCs).

The exhibit must be developed according to a logical plan leading through the exhibit. It may include aspects of the subject of the stamp such as the way from the essays via proofs to the issued stamp with its printing phases and all kinds of varieties including FDCs. The subject needs to be shown on each item throughout the exhibit. The structure of Subject based exhibits will typically be classified by one of the following:

- Scientific or Systematic (eg. species of bird, paintings by an artist, areas of discovery)
- Organisational (eg. Red Cross)
- Repetitive Events (eg. Olympics)
- Time Related (eg. historical/chronological mapping of the subject but without a connecting storyline eg. Voyages of Captain Cook). A time related classification could also have components of a Scientific or Systematic classification within the relevant divisions.
- There is no requirement for a thematic story linking the divisions of the plan.
- The plan may consist of divisions and subdivisions that are unacceptable in Thematics, namely:
  - Date of issue, issuing country, type of material, or purpose of issue.
- There is no requirement to balance the relevant divisions of the Plan.
- The written explanations should be concise.
- The usage means the showing of need for value by way of commercial material.

**Philatelic Knowledge:** The exhibit should show knowledge of material and various types of philatelic material such as stamps, usage, postal stationery and FDC showing the subject chosen. Revenue stamps and Meter material depicting the subject can be included.

- Commercial mail with explanation of rate of stamp/s used.
- Postal Stationery with image of subject, with examples of usage. Postal stationery should not be cut or windowed, other than to show a cancellation.
- FDC"s should include information of release date and postal rates for the stamps.
- Subject Knowledge:
- A good balance of information of the subject shown on each page is required. The exhibitor should display their depth of knowledge of the subject, rather than just a collection of items.
- The written word and other aspects are a secondary part of the exhibit and should not overpower philatelic material on each page of the exhibit.

**Condition:** Items should be shown in the best condition possible. Mint stamps and Minisheets are preferable to used copies where single items are shown. Covers should show clear dates.

**Rarity and Difficulty of Acquisition:** Rarity is directly related to the philatelic items shown and to the relative scarcity of this material (however, not the value). For example usage of material can be inexpensive but difficult to obtain.

**Presentation:** The criterion of "Presentation" requires an evaluation of the clarity of display, the text as well as the overall aesthetic balance of the exhibit.

- Good use of the page with not too much white space on the pages.
- The write up is clear, concise and relevant to the material shown and to the subject chosen for the exhibit.
- Sufficient write up but not too much text.
- Illustrations are not too dominating. Any photocopies must be a minimum of 25% different in size from the original.

If the APF proposal goes ahead it will firstly be introduced at One Frame level at Newcastle in 2015 and then hopefully at multi-frame level in 2016. This is to allow as much feedback as possible. If you would like to comment on this paper please reply to:

[garyjohn951@optusnet.com.au](mailto:garyjohn951@optusnet.com.au). If the class proceeds and you are interested in collecting by topic please try and exhibit. It will be a great way of combing stamp collecting with your interests.

### **Publication on APF Replica cards**

For many years Australia Post has produced Replica Cards to support Australian national exhibitions. The replica cards contained an impression from the die of an issued Australian stamp printed in intaglio. The final card depicting the 2/3 ANZAC stamp is due to be released at Sydney Stampshow 2015.

A book listing all of the replica cards, including the black prints and overprinted cards, has been prepared by Martin Walker and is expected to be published at Adelaide Stampex 2014.

## Abandoned Stamp Card No 2



Proposed stamp design for a 5/- Sturt stamp

The second in the series of Abandoned Stamp Cards will be released in conjunction with Adelaide Stampshow 2014. The design of the card will feature a Charles Sturt design which was prepared by the Note Printing Branch in about 1943, as part of a high value definitive series featuring Famous Australians intended to replace the high value Robes stamps.

## Adelaide Stampex 2014



Adelaide Stampex



The Drill Hall, venue for Adelaide Stampex 2014

Adelaide Stampex 2014, the second half-national exhibition in 2014, will be held 10-12 October 2014 at the Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground, Adelaide. Stampex 2014 will include national classes in Traditional, Postal Stationery, Revenues, Polar & Picture Postcards. A highlight of the exhibition will be the Postcard Challenge comprising teams of four participants (2 x 1 frame and 2 x 5 frame entries) from around Australia.

Adelaide Stampex will also include dealers and meetings and will be a wonderful venue to meet your philatelic friends. Plan now to attend.

### **Being a Commissioner to an International Exhibition: Part 2 Before the Exhibition Opens**

In the first part of this article I looked at the role of being an Australian commissioner before an exhibition. In this second part of the article I cover some of the responsibilities of the Commissioner while they are attending the exhibition.

On arrival at the airport in the city of the exhibition the Commissioner's first job is to collect the trunk containing the exhibits and pass through customs. As the trunks are carried in checked baggage there is an anxious wait for the trunks to appear at baggage claim and relief when it does.

The Commissioner will have completed all of the custom documentation and requirements provided by the Exhibition. They will now follow the customs instructions provided by the Exhibition. These will vary for each country and for each exhibition. Often the exhibits will now be taken into custom bond and transferred under bond to the exhibition where there may be a customs office responsible for releasing the exhibits at the Exhibition. In other cases the exhibits will be cleared for entry by customs.

The Commissioner will normally be met by representatives of the Exhibition organising committee (or in some cases by Post Office staff) and transported to either their hotel or (especially if they are still carrying exhibits) to the exhibition.

If the exhibits have been placed under bond, the commission will go to the exhibition and collect the exhibits from the customs office or the customs agent.

With the exhibits the Commissioner will go to the bin room where they will hand the exhibitions over to the exhibition organizers. This requires that every page in every exhibit is checked jointly by the Commissioner and a representative of the exhibition and checked against the inventory form. Given that there are 80-128 sheets in each exhibit and the commission might have 15 exhibits or more this can take a considerable time. Remember also that there will be another 60 commissioners also waiting to hand over their exhibits. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that the whole process can take a considerable time and commissioners must be patient. Indeed at one exhibition I can remember the whole process taking most of the afternoon and evening, with commissioners finally returning to their hotels after midnight. If any problems arise, such as missing pages or stamps which have fallen from the page, the Commissioner is responsible for dealing with the problem.

Once the exhibits have been past to the exhibition organizers, the next task for the Commissioner is to check the exhibits once they have been mounted in the frames. Have all the pages been mounted? Are they in the correct order and up the right way? Are the frames

safe and secure? Are there any physical or security threats to the material? If not, the Commissioner will contact the organizers and have the problem rectified. Next time: During the exhibition



Commissioner waiting to deliver exhibits



Commissioners in line at the Bin Room