

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

This month I look at the APF's 2014 Australian Philatelic Order and Australian Philatelic Research awards.

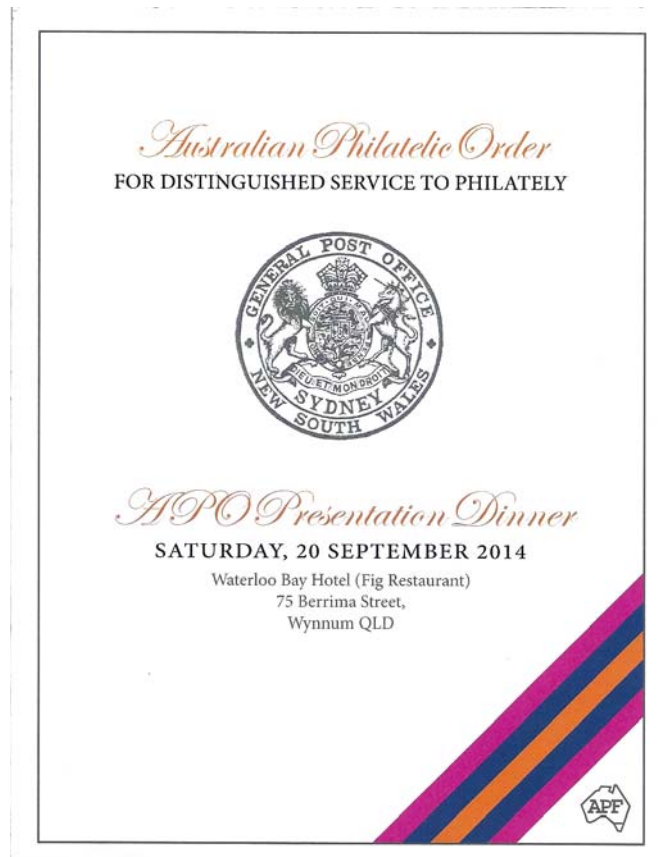
Australian Philatelic Order Awards 2014

The Australian Philatelic Federation conducts a formal system of Awards, the Australian Philatelic Order (APO) awards, which aim to recognise and honour philatelists and others who have made a significant contribution to the development and promotion of philately in Australia. Nominees are considered on the basis of their services to organized philately, distinguished philatelic study and research, exhibiting, judging, promotion of philately and public dissemination including teaching. There are two levels of award, Fellow and Member as well as the APF Research Award.

Awardees receive a medal based on the design of the stamp of the New South Wales embossed lettersheet of 1838 which is the Coat of Arms of William IV, engraved by Mr W Wilson. The lettersheets were struck in blind embossing on a sheet of writing paper approximately 330m x 210mm, to be folded and sealed to envelope size and were initially sold at 1/3 per dozen and intended to be used for the 1d local Sydney District, postal rate. They were not popular, only small quantities were used and even today, unused examples are not common. It is generally conceded that the introduction of this embossed lettersheet established New South Wales, as the first Country in the world to accept prepayment of the postage by means of an impressed stamp. The medal is accompanied by a ribbon each in three colours which also have philatelic significance. The major Award, Fellow, is in the three colors red, blue and green representing the 1d, 2d and 3d "Sydney Views", the first issue of postage stamps in the Colony of New South Wales 1850, while the Ribbon for the lesser Award, Member, is in orange, lilac and blue representing the 1d, 2d and 3d "Half Lengths", the first stamps issued in the Colony of Victoria, also 1850.

For the APF Research Award, the medal design is symbolic of Australian philatelic research, while the ribbon color is of philatelic significance in that it represents, in limited form, the complex shades and colors of Australia's most written about and extensively researched stamp - the 1914 KGV One Penny Red.

The awardees for 2014 are Malcolm Groom, who has been made a Fellow of the Australian Philatelic Order, Dr Geoffrey Lewis who has become a Member of the Australian Philatelic Order and Ben Palmer who has received the Research Award. Dr Geoffrey Lewis was presented with his award at a special dinner held on 20 September 2014 in Brisbane in conjunction with the APF's Annual General Meeting.



Dinner menu for the APO Awards Dinner showing the medal design

Malcolm Groom FAP

Malcolm Groom was made a Member of the Australian Philatelic Order in 2003 for his work in philately in Australia and internationally. He has now been made a Fellow for his contributions to philately since that date, most notably as President of the organising committee of the very successful Australia 2013 World Stamp Exhibition held in May 2013 in Melbourne.

Malcolm was a member of the executive of the APF from 1986-2011 including President (1998-99) and International Officer (2005-2011). He has been a member of the Australia Post Stamp Advisory Committee since 1998, was Chairman of the Organising Committee of Pacific Explorer 2005, has been a member of FIP Postal History Bureau from 1998 and represented Australia on the FIAP Executive Council from 1999 until 2010.

His exhibits have included Tasmanian Postal History until 1912, Australian Contract Mails, Frank & Free Mails of Tasmania, One Man's War (Social), Tasmanian Postal Stationery, Tasmanian Pictorials 1899-1912 (National Large Gold), Australian Commercial Airmails to 1945, and Tasmanian Embossed Postal Stationery. His other collecting interests include Cote d'Ivoire, Irish PS, Tasmanian West Coast social postal history, Australia 1959-63 Animals series, and South Africa.

Malcolm has been a qualified national judge since 1985 and a FIP qualified judge in Postal History since London 1990 and has served on juries for many international exhibitions including Washington 2006 (assistant Jury secretary), Praga 2008, China 2009 (Jury secretary), London 2010 (Jury secretary), and Philanippon 2011.

Malcolm has been active in promoting philately through seminars in Dubai, Qatar, Taipei, Washington, Malaga & Wuxi and has published articles in Philately from Australia, Postscript and The Courier.



Malcolm Groom, Fellow

Dr Geoffrey Lewis, MAP

Dr Geoffrey Lewis is an all-around philatelist, an inveterate collector, a high level philatelic researcher particularly in the field of postal history and a strong supporter of organised philately. He has given many years of service to the Philatelic Society of New South Wales, initially as Vice President and subsequently as President and now Treasurer. He established

the Society's Postal History Group that over time became the Chatswood group which still has an emphasis on postal history.

Dr Lewis has been Chairman of two successful national exhibitions staged in Sydney both at the Royal Randwick Race Course. He was the inaugural Chairman of the New South Wales Exhibition Standing Committee (NESC) which oversees the organisation and conduct of exhibitions in New South Wales.



Geoff Lewis receiving his award from Philip Levine President APF

In his collecting interests Dr Lewis started with the Spanish Philippines and subsequently moved on to Cuba, another Spanish colony. He is one of the few overseas members of the Spanish Academy of Philately. He is best known as a postal historian but he has collections of the stamps of the Philippines and Philippine International airmails.

Dr Lewis is a judge at Australian National Level and is also an FIP accredited judge in Postal History and Traditional Philately. He readily imparts his knowledge on exhibiting to other exhibitors. On 27 April 2014 he presented a session at the Malmö 3rd International Philatelic Summit in Malmö, Sweden on Postal History Collecting and Exhibiting.

The Australian Philatelic Federation has assigned Dr Lewis as a national commissioner to Espana 2006 at Malaga and Italia 2009 in Rome. The Philatelic Development Council of PHILAS appointed him as the Commissioner/Judge and Coordinator of the Australasian Challenge, Baypex 2014.

Dr Lewis, who was awarded the Australian Philatelic Research award in 2006, has co-authored a monograph on the Postal History of the Spanish Philippines. Corinphila has also published his collection of “Stampless Mail entering Spain” as part of their Gold Edition series.

Geoffrey Lewis is an accomplished member of the philatelic community who has served organised philately over many years, is distinguished in Philatelic study and research, a well-respected judge and teacher of exhibitors both here and overseas and a strong promoter of our hobby to the general public.



Mr and Mrs Lewis at the Awards dinner.jpg

Ben Palmer APR

Ben Palmer has received the APF Research Award for 2014. Ben Palmer is an all around philatelist, an inveterate collector, a high level philatelic researcher particularly in the field of postal history, and a supporter of organised philately.

Ben has spent close to twenty years working in the area of Australia Colonial Philately and Postal History. He holds various positions where he is required to answer questions from collectors on Australian colonial philately. Research in this area is never easy because archival holdings and library collections are never complete and can be widely scattered. Ben's research has combined primary archival documents with philatelic items to give postal historians a detailed understanding of the international rates, routes and means of conveyance used by the Postal Authorities of the Colony of Victoria before it joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU). This research was published in the book *Pre UPU Destination mail of Victoria*.

Subsequently Ben applied a similar approach to a census of the First issue on New South Wales - Sydney Views - on cover which was published as *Sydney Views on cover- a census*.

Ben has formed a number of collections and exhibits that have assisted him in his philatelic research.

Ben has given many years of service to the States Study Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club as Secretary of the Circle and also as Librarian of the parent club. He has been a regular contributor to *Sydney Views*, the journal of the study circle Ben wrote an article for the *Pacific Explorer 2005* FIP Exhibition Catalogue in Sydney on pre U.P.U. mails between France and Australia and vice versa that had texts in English and French. He also assisted in the production of the exhibition catalogues of Sydney Stamp Expo 2007, and Sydney Stamp Expo 2011.



Ben Palmer APR

Ben has been a member the Royal Philatelic Society London since 2002 and a Fellow of that Society since 2010. He has also accepted an invitation to be an associate of the Society of Postal Historians, a criterion of which is publication of an article in the society journal.

Ben has been part of the team at the PHILAS Library and has participated in researching for other collectors as well as in State based projects. He is a tireless worker for our hobby and he enjoys researching difficult topics so his peers can expand their knowledge. Equally by undertaking research Ben has expanded his own philatelic education.

Ben Palmer is an accomplished philatelic researcher who has promoted the cause of Australian Colonial Philately through the publication of two books and in journal research articles.

APF Service Award

At its annual general meeting in Brisbane, the APF awarded Ross Wood with the APF Service Award for long and distinguished service on the APF Executive.



Ross Wood receiving the APF service award