

Introducing the Australian Philatelic Federation: Part 39 **By Ian McMahon, Philatelic Development Officer, APF**

Welcome to my first column on *Introducing the APF*. My name is Ian McMahon and I have replaced John Sadler as the Philatelic Development Officer on the executive of the Australian Philatelic Federation.

John's first column in Stamp News was in the February 2010 issue where he provided an introduction to the APF and its services. Since then John has produced some 40 columns covering a wide range of topics including the role of the APF, its structure and services, exhibiting guidelines and general information for collectors. On behalf of the APF I would like to congratulate John on his writing such an interesting range of columns and wish him well for his future endeavours.

In this column I would like to look at the APF exhibiting class of Frugal Philately and an update to the rules of the postal stationery class.

Frugal Philately

Many people over the years have complained about the high cost of forming an exhibit. While there is no doubt that a top exhibit in many fields, especially of the classical era, will cost a considerable amount of money, there remains considerable scope for developing interesting exhibits of less expensive material making use of a collector's knowledge and their ability to ferret out scarce and unusual material. Remember that the judging criteria for an exhibit include points for presentation, knowledge and research, all of which relate to the exhibitor's exhibiting skill and not directly to the value of the material. In addition rarity doesn't always equate with high value especially in less popular collecting areas.



Modern issues of less popular countries make good Frugal Philately Displays

In order to encourage collectors to exhibit such material, the APF established the Frugal Philately Class in 1994 and it first became available to exhibitors at Canberra Stampshow 1996. The late Ed Druce from Canberra was the chief proponent of the new class. Reports on the Exhibition at the time commented that *The six entries in the new Frugal Philately section clearly demonstrated the value of this class for research into modern issues and aspects of modern philately.*

The Frugal Philately class seeks to provide an opportunity for collectors to display an exhibit comprised of interesting philatelic material which is of low cost, and in doing so enhance their philatelic skills. It is intended to encourage those who might be discouraged from exhibiting by the high cost of items needed to compete in some of the other classes.

The class name derives from the low wholesale value of the entire exhibit, which is limited to a maximum of five frames. Should the wholesale value of the exhibit exceed an upper limit of \$1,000 (for five frames), then penalties apply resulting in a loss of points and possibly a lower award.



Private order express envelope for QANTAS

Frugal exhibits are restricted to three to five frames and can be in any national philatelic class except for Youth and Literature. The class is only available at the National Level. Judging of Frugal exhibits is carried out in two stages with the results of each stage not being revealed to the judging teams until both stages are complete. Firstly the entries are judged by the relevant philatelic class judging team, using all the normal criteria. Secondly the exhibit is assessed as to its wholesale monetary value. This judging is carried out by a team of three judges, well versed in philatelic valuations and, normally drawn from the philatelic trade (usually members of the Australian Philatelic Trader's Association) with at least five years standing. This team assesses the wholesale market value of the exhibit not taking into account any enhanced value accruing to the exhibit because of the skills of the exhibitor. This valuation will be available to the exhibitor.



Indian postcard with Government advertising

If the adjudged wholesale value exceeds \$1,000.00 (based on 5 frames with an average of \$200 per frame) points will be deducted from the philatelic score on the following scale: \$1 - \$60 - loss of one point for each \$20.00 or part thereof; \$61 - \$200 - loss of one point for each \$10.00 or part thereof; and \$201 upwards - loss of one point for each \$5.00 or part thereof. For exhibits of less than 5 frames a pro rata value of \$200 per frame is used.

The last time the Frugal Class was available was at Adelaide Stampex 2010 where there were three entries including Michael Blake's *Russian Republic Letter Size Envelopes* and Michel Roland's *Yesteryear and Today* which received large silver medals.

The next opportunity to enter a frugal exhibit is Canberra Stampshow 2013. Entries close on 25 November 2013 and details and an entry form can be found on the Canberra Stampshow website <http://www.canberrastamps.org/canberra2014.htm>.

I would encourage you to take this opportunity to enter an exhibit comprising low-value material and to use your philatelic knowledge, your skills at preparing an exhibit and your ability to track down those elusive items to provide an outstanding display. Suitable topics might include modern issues of less popular countries, modern postal stationery and modern postal markings.

Further information on the Frugal Philately class by visiting the APF website at www.apf.org.au/frugal , or by emailing me at ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com.

Update to the Postal Stationery Guidelines

John Sadler in a previous column in Stamp News discussed the postal stationery class.

The FIP Postal Stationery Commission has over the last few years been working on an update of the guidelines for exhibiting postal stationery. The rules related to postal stationery exhibiting comes in two parts: The regulations that set the general regulations and the guidelines that explain jurors and exhibitors more in depth how the regulations are interpreted with concrete guidelines for exhibiting.

The new guidelines were presented for the first time in 2009 in the postal stationery commission newsletter that was sent out to all delegates and FIP Members. Since then the guidelines have been discussed at the commission meeting in 2010 in Portugal, and the final version again presented in the commission newsletter in January 2012 before being submitted to the commission meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, June 2012, where it was unanimously approved by the commission delegates and formally approved by the FIP Board in Melbourne May 2013.

There are no major changes in the guidelines, but the revision should make it easier for the exhibitors to get guidance in exhibiting and for jurors to be consistent in their judging. The changes in the guidelines are:

- More detailed description of which items can be exhibited in the postal stationery class
- Description of one-frame postal stationery exhibit requirements
- Description of what should be in a title page

- A more detailed description of how postal stationery exhibits are evaluated regarding treatment, importance, knowledge, condition, rarity and presentation

The new guidelines apply from now on.

We strongly suggest that all exhibitors and jurors of postal stationery read the [new guidelines](#). See the Postal Stationery Commission website (www.postalstationery.org) for the new guidelines and much other information on postal stationery exhibiting.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Emeritus Judges

The APF is responsible for maintaining the register of Australia's philatelic judges. After many years of dedicated service to judging, a philatelic judge may be designated by the APF as emeritus. Often this is due, unfortunately, to ill health, but also some feel that younger judges need to get more experience and agree to not be considered for jury service. This does not mean, however, that an emeritus judge cannot be used on a jury. An emeritus judge may still be used in their own State, particularly where an experienced judge is needed. They may also be used as a specialist consultant to a jury where they have particular expertise that is needed. However, not all judges become emeritus, only those with a number of years of service to philatelic judging. Australia has many emeritus judges although a number have passed away over the years. There are at least a dozen at present, with a few more likely in the next five years.

Over the years, whilst judges have been made emeritus there has never been formal recognition, by the philatelic community, for the years of service provided by our judges. The APF has decided that in future that it will provide formal recognition to emeritus judges with formal presentations of certificates to be made at APF annual general meetings. At this year's AGM the APF made presentations to three emeritus judges at the Australian Philatelic Order recognition dinner. The three recipients at the 2013 dinner were Derek Pocock, Alf Campe and Michael Blake.



Derek Pocock, Michael Blake and Alf Campe with their certificates Photo: Jeff Trinidad