

APF NEWS

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Melbourne International Stamp Exhibition 2022 Relaunch



Exhibition Timetable Updates Listed Inside

Auctions

in London

Grosvenor is delighted to announce the appointment of **Charles Bromser, MAP, FRPSV, FBPS**, as our official representative in Australia. Charles is a well-known and respected figure in Australian philately, a writer and international judge whose long experience will be an invaluable source of advice for collectors considering the many advantages of sale in London.

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<p><u>Secretary</u> Ian McMahon PO Box 891 JAMISON CENTRE ACT 2614 ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com</p> <p><u>APF NEWS</u> is a free service from the Australian Philatelic Federation.</p> <p>Readers who would like to receive their personal copy of APF News may write to the editor.</p> <p><u>EDITOR</u> Darryl Fuller PO Box 267 GEORGE TOWN TAS 7253 djbsfuller@iinet.net.au</p> <p><u>ADVERTISING RATES</u> \$500+GST For colour inside the back and front cover pages and centre pages. \$300+GST For full page (inside magazine) \$200+GST For ½ page (inside the magazine) Discounts available for 3 issues paid in advance. Enquire to editor.</p>	<table> <tr><td>3</td><td>APF News</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>President's Column</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>Australian Philatelic Order Awards</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>Melbourne 2022 International Stamp Exhibition Relaunch</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>Australia Post</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>• Local Souvenirs</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>Clubs' Page</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>• APF Journal Support Scheme</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>• Getting Your Club Online</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>The Expert Group – What is its Role at International Exhibitions?</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>Exhibition Timetable and Updates</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>Covid-19 Souvenirs</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>Aerophilately versus Postal History (The Changing Face of Philately)</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Useful Philatelic Websites</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>The APTA Page</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>Moths</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">ADVERTISERS</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>Grosvenor Auctions</td></tr> <tr><td>36</td><td>Australia Post</td></tr> </table>	3	APF News	3	President's Column	5	Australian Philatelic Order Awards	8	Melbourne 2022 International Stamp Exhibition Relaunch	9	Australia Post		• Local Souvenirs	12	Clubs' Page		• APF Journal Support Scheme		• Getting Your Club Online	17	The Expert Group – What is its Role at International Exhibitions?	19	Exhibition Timetable and Updates	21	Covid-19 Souvenirs	22	Aerophilately versus Postal History (The Changing Face of Philately)		Useful Philatelic Websites	26	The APTA Page	27	Moths	28		ADVERTISERS		2	Grosvenor Auctions	36	Australia Post
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News

The virus continues to cause havoc around the world with more changes to exhibitions in the next 12 months. It has impacted the APF AGM and caused the Melbourne exhibition to be postponed for 18 months and this has had flow on affects to proposed exhibitions across Australia over the next 6 years.

APF President's Column



Firstly, as this is the second edition of APF News presented by our new Editor, Darryl Fuller, I would like to thank Darryl for taking on this important role and for his efforts to date. I am sure readers will agree that APF News continues the high standard that our previous Editor, the late Gary Brown established.

As life begins to return to normal in some but sadly not all States, in contrast to recent months, we see Club meetings re-commence and exchange sheets again doing the rounds of club members. How have philatelic clubs and societies managed over the months since the Pandemic first came to Australia? As mentioned in my last column, technology has come to the fore and provided new and different ways for us to keep in touch and follow our hobby. For some clubs, Zoom the most popular of the video conferencing aps, has become a routine means of communication. I have participated in a number of very good club presentations using this software over the last three months.

One major advantage is that items being displayed are presented in fine detail on your screen. This provides a close-up view of what is being discussed. Another useful feature is that all participants are visible on your screen and there can be discussions as appropriate. This means at least we can have some contact with our collecting colleagues at a time when travel outside your own suburb was difficult. Zoom also opens up meetings to those in outlying areas and those who may not want to drive in the evenings.

The APF has now held two Executive meetings using Zoom. To manage the agenda, we have decided to meet more frequently but given we can meet while sitting in our own home, the time we need to conduct business has been substantially reduced, not to mention the savings in travel costs.

Other clubs have made good use of their websites to provide on-line auctions and news updates. In this edition of APF News we provide some information about how to get your club online. Of course, Social media has also been hard at work providing stamp forums on platforms such as Facebook. The COVID Pandemic has certainly pushed our hobby strongly towards technology solutions which is no bad thing if we wish to continue to be relevant to younger generations.

Exhibitions

Now that the dust has settled a little on the Exhibiting scene, we have a clearer picture of the Exhibition timetable into the future. Most but not all cancelled Exhibitions have re-scheduled and 2022 now looks to be a very big year Internationally. You can view the revised Exhibiting timetable as we currently understand it in this edition of APF news or on-line at apf.org.au/philatelic-exhibition-timetable. However, with a degree of uncertainty which is still present we strongly advise keep an eye out for further timetable changes.

The APF's response to a lack of exhibitions in the near future as is, as foreshadowed previously, the Australian Virtual On-line Exhibition **AusVipex2020**. This is a one-frame, or 16 sheet or equivalent exhibition. We now have a complete website where you can view and download the prospectus and entry form. As you would expect, this Exhibition will be different to the traditional format in some ways. Displays are requested as scanned PDFs and will be posted on the website as an image slideshow page by page. You can view a demonstration exhibition on the website. The Entry form is an electronic form which saves entrants printing it out and scanning. Just download it, type the details on the computer screen, press "submit" and email it back.

Entries close 30 Sept 2020 and all display scans are due by 20 Oct, to be posted on the site by 1 November. The website is at <https://www.ausvipex2020.com.au/>. Entries are open to residents of Australia and New Zealand.

A new subject area for collectors

It's an ill wind (no pun intended) that blows no good! It may have been prophetic that the first exhibit we received for AusVipex2020 was a postal history entry on the subject of mail affected by the COVID19 Pandemic. Recently we have seen the Pandemic emergence as a very popular new field for collectors. Not only are mail items showing Pandemic-related Post Office markings in strong demand but increasingly many Postal Administrations have been issuing new stamp and postal stationery issues. A quick check of a thread on Stampboards.com will show just how this new philatelic subject is booming.

Recently the APF released a number of exhibition souvenirs where the exhibition had been cancelled due to the Pandemic. These have been appropriately overprinted and have proved very quick sellers. To prove the point about the strength of the market for such items, note that a COVID-overprinted souvenir from a cancelled Western Australian Stamp fair sold on Ebay for over \$900 very recently!

Australian Philatelic Order Awards

The Australian Philatelic Order was established by the APF in 1994 to recognize and honour philatelists who have given distinguished service to Australian Philately. In addition, an APF Research Award was introduced in 1997 to ensure recognition of those who have made significant contributions in the field of research.

The Awards are now an established highlight of the Australian philatelic calendar with a formal presentation ceremony held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the APF. Nominees are considered on the basis of their services to organized philately, which includes distinguished philatelic study and research. This includes judging, and promotion of philatelic and public dissemination including teaching.

There has been a change to the award this year in that, with agreement of the State Councils, members of the Executive of the APF are now eligible to be nominated. This was largely done because most of the current executive have been members for many years, and in a different situation where the executive is turned over more frequently, many would likely have been nominated.

The APF has kept with its policy of not awarding the regular APOs posthumously. However, it does have an Honorary Fellow award that has been used for people who have done a lot for Australian philately but don't explicitly meet the award guidelines. To date two stamp dealers, two from Australia Post and one collector have been given this award over the last 26 years. The executive decided that an Honorary award should be given posthumously to Gary Brown, given the strong contribution that Gary made to Australian and international philately. The award will be accepted by his family.

David Figg MAP



Citation

David started collecting stamps during his Primary School years and continued through High School and his early working career when he had pen pals in Fiji and Canada.

Collecting continuously through his Tertiary Studies in Accountancy, it wasn't until he took an around-the-world trip in 1979 that he became convinced of the need to join a stamp club (or two) - which has now grown to over fifteen clubs.

David became involved in the administrative and organisational side of the hobby in the mid-eighties and has held numerous positions of Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President over the years, currently being President of two clubs, Vice President of two, Treasurer of two and Life Member of three. In addition, David has been on both the APF Executive and SA Philatelic Council continuously since 2001, receiving the SAPC Briskham Award in 2006.

At the National level David is currently APF Treasurer, Picture Postcard Class Coordinator, National Juror and FIP Maximaphily Commission Delegate. He has also been President and Treasurer of many National Stamp Exhibitions held in Adelaide.

Internationally, David has been Australian Commissioner on numerous occasions, Commissioner-General for Australia 2013, Vice President to Melbourne 2013 and is currently a Bureau Member on the FIP Maximaphily Commission.

His judging career commenced in 2003. Since then, David has judged on numerous occasions nationally and on overseas accords, and in recent years became a Team Leader in Picture Postcards and has also served as Jury Secretary and Jury Chair.

David exhibits prolifically in the Picture Postcards Class having achieved Large Gold Nationally and Large Vermeil internationally. He has also exhibited in Aerophilately, Open and Polar.

Although not an international judge, it was through his interest in picture postcards that he scored a jury assignment in Finland in 2017. Following that assignment, at the request of Bernard Beston (then FIP Vice President), David prepared two discussion papers for the FIP Board; one on the class being considered as an experimental class, and the other on how to accredit international judges into the class. David has also conducted sessions on the class at National Training and Refresher courses as well as seminars and workshops including overseas.

Being a retired accountant by profession, his business acumen and organisational skills have been very much appreciated. For example, David was responsible for organising the Australia-wide insurance policies on Public & Products Liability insurance and the Voluntary Workers Personal Accident insurance.

Gary Brown FAP (Honorary)

Citation



Gary Brown has been one of the leaders of Australian Philately with enormous achievements both Nationally and Internationally. As a collector, exhibitor, International Judge, mentor, trainer, manager of International exhibitions, member and leader of philatelic societies and innumerable other roles, Gary's contribution to organised philately was huge.

Exhibiting

Gary's personal exhibiting record is staggering. The official record maintained by the Australian Philatelic Federation lists 107 separate awards for a diverse range of topics. Perhaps his greatest achievement as an exhibitor was with his Aden Postal History which he first showed in 1986 in Adelaide and which he developed into an international large gold exhibit that was awarded the Grand Prix d'Honneur in the FIAP exhibition in Sharjah in 2012. Having won three FIP large gold medals in Portugal, Jakarta and Thailand, Gary also competed in the Championship class at Australia 2013 World Exhibition.

His many other exhibits include the South African Protea series that achieved a gold also at Australia 2013, South Africa airmailers and aerogrammes, Natal postal stationery to large vermeil level in Bandung 2017 and South African Revenues to gold level in China in 2019. He also developed large vermeil exhibits of Tunisia and the Airgraph Service, both very challenging subjects and ones which Gary researched and presented with enthusiasm. His Open class Exhibit, "Cricket, the Game" is another of his better-known exhibits.

Organised Philately

Gary was not just a collector and exhibitor. He put far more into our hobby through his untiring efforts serving organised philately over very many years.

He joined the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in 1977 and served on their Council for about 20 years. As the President 2002-2004 he played an important role in their move to new premises in Ashburton, seen as a crucial step in securing their future. He served on the Finance and Publications

committees and in recognition of this long commitment to the Royal he was one of ten inaugural Fellows elected in 2010.

He first became involved with the Australian Philatelic Federation as Vice President in 2005, was President in 2007 to 2009 and assumed the role of International Officer in 2011, a position he still held until his untimely death in 2019.

Gary served on the Executive Committee of the Asian Federation (FIAP) from 2010 to 2017 when he was made an Honorary Member, an honour only bestowed on one other Australian and a symbol of the high regard in which he is held throughout Asia. I cannot recall an Exhibition in Asia where he was not present in some role and he did an enormous job in enhancing the reputation of Australian philately abroad.

The World Philatelic body (FIP) also benefitted from Gary's hard work and expertise. He served on their Traditional Commission as the Bureau Secretary and then as Chairman of the Literature Commission.

Judging

Perhaps his greatest contribution to FIP was as a judge. He served as a probationary judge at London 2010 and went on to serve on many international juries where he earned great respect for his wise and freely given advice to exhibitors from across the world. It is this willingness to spend time with them, that many international exhibitors remember him for.

He brought that experience back to Australia where he was the Convenor for a number of Judges Training courses and would willingly volunteer to run seminars and training course whenever asked.

He most recently was one of the FIP presenters at training courses for international judges for the FIP Jury Academy.

Australian International Exhibitions

Australia has hosted only six international exhibitions and Gary was instrumental in the success of the three most recent of them.

He undertook the role of Commissioner General at Pacific Explorer 2005 in Sydney, a very demanding job, and enthused by that he was the driving force at the very successful World Exhibition Australia 2013 in Melbourne.

Many contributed to this success, but it was his strong relationship with Australia Post and their senior philatelic staff as well as his practical ability in working with the exhibition organisers and his energy in mustering support overseas that were key ingredients in the success of Australia 2013.

His enthusiasm did not wane after Australia 2013 and he went on the act as Vice President at the equally successful Melbourne International in 2017 and was busy organising a similar show for 2021.

Publications

Although not a prolific author Gary wrote to educate others with articles on his favourite country, Aden, and others on areas he was trying to promote such as the Open Class and the new area of Topical exhibits. Perhaps more importantly, Gary was an editor of three different journals, a task that only other editors in the philatelic field will appreciate. He was the inaugural editor of 'The Dhow', a journal about Aden philately. He also took over as editor of the NAPE journal, a journal aimed at philatelic exhibiting, but due to a lack of articles his tenure was relatively brief. He then took over as the editor of APF News and completely reinvigorated it, receiving many compliments on his approach.

Gary loved his hobby but more importantly he was always willing to share his knowledge and experience with other collectors and exhibitors. He left a legacy that improved Australian and international philately, which is all any collector can hope for, and is a most worthy in becoming an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Philatelic Order.

Melbourne 2022 International Stamp Exhibition Relaunch



The Melbourne FIAP exhibition scheduled for early 2021 has been rescheduled to 8-11 September 2022. It is in the same great venue as 2017, Caulfield Racecourse (shown at left). This was an excellent venue with the dealers all on the ground floor and exhibits on the first floor. Australia Post is once again the major sponsor, and let's hope they have the same great range of souvenirs as in 2017. This led to big crowds and queues to get in the door, shown below, as they pass by the exhibition of classic Holdens.

Demand for both exhibition frames and dealer stands were very strong in 2017, with both having a greater demand than supply. Given the way Victorians will attend any exhibition or sporting event, I can understand why. Hopefully, with the virus under control, the demand will be even better in 2022. There are 65 dealer stands available (dealers see the website for details) and 1,100 frames.

Souvenirs

The first souvenir item for the relaunch (illustrated on the front cover) sold out in a little over a week. There will be a range of items produced over the next two years which will help fund the exhibition. These will usually be overprinted items, like the front cover miniature sheet, that are done by Australia Post and sold by the APF. Given the speed in which this one sold it may pay to keep abreast of these items as they are produced. Keep the website bookmarked in order not to miss these items. They will be promoted in APF News but given the time between issues it is best to go to the website.



Patrons and Supporters

As in 2017 there will be three levels available, as follows, and details of each will be put on the website when finalised:

Gold	\$500
Silver	\$250
Supporter	\$100

Website and Contact

www.melbourne2022.com.au

There is a general enquiry form on the website, which is best to use at this stage given the significant change in dates and changes in the Committee following Gary Brown's untimely passing.

8-11 September 2022 – Put the dates in your diary now!

Australia Post

Local Souvenirs from Australia Post

Australia Post delivers right across Australia, so you'll find Post Offices from Cairns, Queensland to Warrnambool, Victoria, and from Adelaide, South Australia to Perth, Western Australia, and beyond.

Each of these locations has its own special features, whether it's famous buildings and landmarks, natural landscapes and scenery, or maybe even agricultural crops and fresh produce.

In September 2019, Australia Post launched its Local Souvenirs range, to help Post Offices show off their own city or town to tourists and to promote a sense of pride amongst locals. The range includes postcards, mugs, coasters, tea towels, tote bags, stubby holders and drink bottles (sample at right). The subjects featured are selected in consultation with each location, to ensure an authentic local feel.

The first 11 stores to launch the range of souvenirs were: Port Macquarie and Sydney, New South Wales; Cairns and Brisbane, Queensland; Melbourne, Warrnambool, Bendigo and Swan Hill, Victoria; and Perth (St Georges Terrace), Geraldton and Broome, Western Australia.



Cairns
QLD 4870

The new Local Souvenirs range of postcards give postcard collectors an opportunity to add an attractive new range to their collections.



Port Macquarie
NSW 2444



Warrnambool
VIC 3280
10

The photographic subjects showcased on the postcards and other souvenirs are as diverse as the locations themselves, from Brisbane's Storey Bridge lit up at night to a camel ride along Cable Beach in Broome, and from Melbourne's iconic Flinders Street Station to the Port Macquarie Lighthouse.

There are now just over 100 Post Offices that stock their own Local Souvenirs range. A full list of locations is as follows:

Adelaide GPO	Kyneton Post Shop
Adelaide Halifax St Post Shop	Lakes Entrance Post Shop
Adelaide Hutt St Post Office	Launceston Post Shop
Adelaide Rundle Mall Post Shop	Lismore Post Shop
Albany Post Shop	Mackay Post Shop
Albury Post Shop	Mackay West Post Shop
Alice Springs Post Shop	Mandurah East Post Shop
Australia Square Post Shop	Mandurah Post Shop
Bairnsdale Post Shop	Manjimup Post Shop
Bathurst Post Shop	Margaret River Post Shop
Beechworth Post Shop	Market Square Post Shop
Bega Post Shop	Maroochydore Post Shop
Bendigo Central Post Shop	Maryborough Post Shop
Brisbane GPO Post Shop	Melbourne Collins St West Post Shop
Broken Hill Post Shop	Melbourne Flinders Lane
Broome Post Shop	Melbourne GPO Post Shop
Buderim Post Shop	Mildura Post Shop
Bunbury Post Shop	Mooloolaba Post Shop
Bundaberg Post Shop	Mount Gambier Post Shop
Burleigh Post Shop	Mount Isa Post Shop
Busselton Post Shop	Naracoorte Post Shop
Byron Bay Post Shop	Noosa Civic Post Shop
Cairns Post Shop	Noosa Heads Post Shop
Caloundra Post Shop	North Adelaide Post Shop
Canberra GPO Post Shop	Northam Post Shop
Clifford Gardens Post Shop	Ocean Grove Post Shop
Coffs Harbour Post Shop	Parkes Post Shop
Coolangatta Post Shop	Perth Cloisters Square Post Shop
Cowes Post Shop	Perth GPO Post Shop
Darlinghurst Post Shop	Perth St Georges Terrace
Darwin GPO	Port Macquarie Post Shop
Deniliquin Post Shop	Prahran Post Shop
Docklands Post Shop	QVB Market Street Post Office
Dromana Post Shop	Rockhampton Post Shop
Dubbo Post Shop	Sandy Bay Post Shop
Earlville Post Shop	St Helens Post Shop
East Perth Post Shop	St Kilda Road Post Shop
Echuca Post Shop	St Kilda South Post Shop
Esperance Post Shop	Sunshine Plaza Post Shop
Esperance Post Shop	Surfers Paradise Post Shop
Fremantle Post Shop	Swan Hill Post Shop
Geelong Post Shop	Sydney GPO Post Shop
Geraldton Post Shop	Toowoomba Post Office

Torquay Post Shop
Victor Harbor Post Shop
Wagga Wagga Post Office
Wangaratta Post Shop
Warnambool Post Shop
Wendouree Post Shop
West Perth Post Shop
World Square Post Shop
Woy Woy Post Shop
Yarrawonga Post Shop

“Collectors requiring any of the localised postcards for their collections will need to contact the relevant post offices as these are not available from the Australia Philatelic Bureau or by mail order.”

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Clubs' Page

APF Journal Support Scheme

The APF has had a journal support scheme operating since 1987, with the current scheme essentially the same with a few small rule changes. It was originally conceived to support the high cost of publishing journals for (usually) specialist societies in Australia. For a specialist society whose members are spread across Australia, the journal is often the only form of contact. In order to keep the information flowing the APF decided to subsidise those journals where the Society needed assistance, and most importantly were of a reasonable standard. Over the years a number of specialist societies have received the grant, as well as good quality journals from non-specialist clubs, such as the Philatelic Society of Canberra.

Qualifications

Journal Supported by APF The scheme is open to both existing and proposed journals. The journal must be published four times a year, or for new journals planned to be published four times a year. New journals can be any journal published for less than three years. Existing journals should have received at least a silver medal (65 points) in the last three years at National level. It is also possible for State Councils to support Journals if they fall outside the criteria for this scheme.

Method of Application

All applications are made through the relevant State Council which, if supported, send the application to the APF. Existing journals which have reached the silver medal or higher need to send in the previous 12 -months of journals plus the costings for publication. New journals or those with less than



three years history need to include more background information regarding budgets, audience etc and be willing to enter the journal, at the first opportunity after 12 months of issues are available, in a National exhibition. The application must provide evidence to support the issuing organisation's inability to finance the magazine themselves. One important point to remember is that an improvement of the quality of the production would be an acceptable reason to apply for support. The other important point is that the Journal should make a contribution to Australian philately in order to receive funding.

Nature of the Grant

Recent taxation rulings require the APF to act as a commercial body, so instead of the scheme providing an untied grant, there is an expectation that the APF will advertise product in the Journal. This may include the unadopted design cards, APF store product or one-off exhibition items. This advertising is not onerous but allows the APF to both support and receive support in the process. Total support covers nine years with the Journal needing to requalify (Silver or better) at National exhibitions each three years. Payments are \$400 a year for the first three years, then \$300 a year and finally \$200 a year. To receive payment the society needs to send the APF the four issues of the Journal at the end of each year. Failure to receive a silver medal or lack of four issues a year does not automatically stop the grant and applicants should refer to the APF website for full details.

Retrospectivity

Journals which have previously received grants from the APF, but which have not completed a nine-year support cycle are eligible to receive advertising fees which would complete their nine-year cycle provided they meet the relevant rules and must re-apply through their relevant State Philatelic Council.

It is well worth considering using the scheme, as its support can be very valuable especially if it allows you to offer cheaper memberships. Given the relatively high cost of postage (especially for overseas members) compared with printing these days, the scheme may help keep members. Electronic versions of journals are okay but having a hard copy in your hand is still preferred by many collectors.

Further details are available at <https://apf.org.au/journal-support-scheme/>

Getting Your Club Online

It's no secret that the 21st Century is the digital age. Like it or not, the vast majority of people access digital technology on a daily basis and increasingly rely on it for many aspects of their life.

Most Stamp Clubs and Philatelic Societies would like to increase their membership. One obvious strategy is to provide an on-line presence for your club and indeed many have taken this step. In 2020 it's a basic expectation that any organisation can be found by an online search. Probably the single most effective way to let prospective new members know you exist is to go online and at the same time provide information 24/7 for existing members. This article provides an overview of options and costs. It's easier than you think, but there are some traps and things to bear in mind. We consider Facebook and a traditional website as the two most obvious choices.

The Options - Social Media vs Traditional Websites

Facebook

It has never been easier to build some sort of on-line presence than now. Social media, such as Facebook, is so approachable that a non-technical person can create a Facebook page or Group for their Club or market day in under 10 minutes.

There are in fact two options available - a “Group” and a “Page”. A Group is a forum where people with a common interest can share information online. A Page is similar but allows the creation of a profile, offers more detailed statistical information about transactions and is generally used by a business wanting to present itself online. Perhaps your Club or Exhibition would use a Page, and your circle of collector friends with a common interest would set up a Group. A google search on these terms will quickly provide more information on the differences and a search for “Stamp Clubs” in Facebook will show examples of both. Have a look at a few of these and you will soon get the idea of what can be done. You will find a number of clubs are already using Facebook. Obviously, Facebook works well for some collectors.

Avoiding spam, nuisance posts and relevant content can be managed by making it a closed page where new members need to be approved before they can become active. Page administrators can be created with the power to delete posts. One of the critical requirements for any sort of on-line interactive page is a moderator who is prepared to review the page regularly. On-line forums are notorious for bringing out the worst in some people and on-going vigilance may be needed to keep the page respectful and free from negativity. You will need one or more volunteers who are both comfortable and interested in Facebook and who also have the time to keep a regular eye on proceedings.

The detail of how to create a Facebook page is beyond the scope of this article but a google search will quickly locate instructions. It only takes a few minutes. You will find the Facebook Pages App, which is available to download on your phone will provide easy access to manage your page on the run.

A traditional website

If Facebook is so easy (and free), why then go to the trouble of building a website? The two mediums are very different so it's a matter of choosing which type of online presence suits your needs.

Social media are just that - designed to foster interaction between people. They have immediacy, allow comments, sharing and extremely easy access to other features of your device, such as cameras. On the other hand, a Facebook news feed moves quickly, and today's posts rapidly disappear off the bottom of your screen. Can you find that post you remember from two weeks back? There's no easy-access menu showing all your content and the medium does not work well for storing large volumes of information. While files can be stored on a Facebook page, they are not terribly obvious. On the other hand, a website is ideal for storing content, allows information to be displayed in a structured way and also allows content to be located via online searches. Facebook is only partially accessible to the search engines.

There is no reason why your Facebook page and website can't work together with each doing what it does best. You can share web links on Facebook and your website can integrate with your Facebook page.

Building a Club website - what do you need?

These days there are many ways to set up a website, and some of these cater quite well for the non-technically minded. You will need a Domain name, a web hosting account and the website itself. A domain costs around \$20 a year and suitable web hosting starts from around \$10 per month. These may be provided by different companies but often its convenient to use the same provider for both domain and web hosting services.

Your Web Domain

Your domain is your web address and is in the form “mysite.com”, “mysite.org.au” and so on. Domains are managed by a Domain Registrar who has a licence to maintain Domains and will charge

a small annual fee. Your domain name is like your phone number, enabling people to find your site on the internet.

Choice of a Domain name can be confusing. The “.com”, “.org” or “.net” form are not country-specific and anyone can use these without an ABN. “.com” is taken to mean the site is owned by a commercial entity while “.org” usually means a not-for-profit organisation. “.net” originally meant a site dealing with online services but is more loosely used these days. You could use any of these extensions and use a Registrar located anywhere to manage your domain registration services. If you wish to add a country designation - “.au” - then there are restrictions. “.com.au” requires an Australian ABN but “.org.au” is available to non-commercial organisations.

There is some value in using a Country-specific form though it’s not essential and the location of your club is usually obvious from the name.

For your domain name, keep it short (as practical), avoid numbers and hyphens and make it memorable — .xxxstampclub.org.au is as good as any.

You can check if your preferred domain name is available on any Domain Registrar’s site. If you want to use the “.au” suffix, then you will need to use a Domain Registrar licenced to operate in Australia. These days Australian prices are competitive and there are some advantages in using an Australian company as both Registrar and web host. There is plenty of choice. VentraIP, Crazy Domains and Godaddy are a few of the well-known companies offering both hosting and Domain management but a google search will bring up plenty of other options.

A Web Hosting Account

As well as a Domain you will need a web hosting account. Your hosting account provides storage for your website files and access to these. Look for a company offering a “C-panel” which allows easy access to the files and various technical controls.

A small shared hosting account costs around \$10 per month and would meet the needs of a club site. As with Domains, there are some advantages of using Australian-based web hosting companies. Companies such as VentraIP, Crazy Domains and Net Registry offer competitive packages but there are plenty of others. Free Domains and SSL certificates are sometimes included in the deal. An SSL certificate is a security measure which encrypts any data flowing between the web host and the user’s computer and is pretty much essential these days, though your site will run perfectly well without it. A site with no SSL certificate will show a large “NOT Secure” message in the web browser. An SSL certificate is very important if you expect to collect personal details from visitors such as names, address and payment details.

Building a website

This is a huge topic and we can only skim the surface here but hopefully the following can get you started. The following is a very basic overview and you will need to do your own research.

Unless you are a trained coder, you will want to use a “Content Management System (CMS)” or an on-line website builder. These provide a way to build a site with little or no coding experience. The best-known CMS are Wordpress, Drupal and Joomla. While all are excellent, Wordpress in my experience is the easiest to learn and use for non-technical people. It also offers a vast range of free and paid “plugins” and “Themes” which allow you to do just about anything you might wish to do online. The free and cheap add-ons are one of the big attractions for Wordpress.

Then there are drag and drop online website builders. These usually offer a package of hosting, domain and ready-made modules which can be moved about and tailored. You pay an annual fee for the package. These include Wix, Weebly and Squarespace. They offer many ready-made designs and add-ons and are all good options. There is always a learning curve, but on-line help is available.

Wordpress

As Wordpress is, in my experience, the easiest system for a non-technical person to pick up let's have a look at setting up a Wordpress website. You will still have to invest time in understanding how Wordpress works, or alternatively hire someone to build the site for you. There are many on-line tutorials and an online search will provide as much information as you need.

There are two options. Wordpress.com offers hosting/domain packages and there is a very basic free installation available. This might suit your club but without paying a monthly fee you do not get a personal domain or options like image galleries.

Wordpress.org on the other hand is where you get the free Wordpress software for installation on your own hosting account though these days most web hosting companies offer a very simple installation process through the "c-panel". Your web hosting company's c-panel will set up Wordpress in less than 5 minutes. You end up with a couple of very basic initial web pages which you can then expand and style by adding a "theme".

At this point you need to set various items in your new website's Admin panel. You will need to research the basic set-up controls which are located in your Wordpress Admin panel but until you are ready to launch your site on the world, go to:

"Settings > Reading > Search Engine visibility > discourage search engines from indexing this site".

This tells search engines such as google not to list your site - no-one will know it's there unless they have the direct address. When you are ready for it to go public then turn this off and within a few days Google will have included the site in its search results.

The next things you will need to do are to set up a theme for your site and add any plugins needed.

Wordpress themes

A Wordpress Theme is a package of styles, colours, page layouts and similar settings which give your site its look and feel. There are hundreds of free and paid Wordpress themes. Each install comes with one or more free themes provided by Wordpress itself so you can be sure they will be well maintained and are safe. Wordpress allows easy up-loading and installation of themes and has a selection tool which links to the Wordpress gallery of free and paid themes so you can browse and try out various options. See *"Appearance > themes"* in the Admin sidebar.

Plugins

Plugins add functionality to your site. Examples include image galleries, on-line stores, contact forms, spam filters and security protection to name just a few. Again, Wordpress provides an easy way to add these and turn them on and off. As with Themes, there is a vast on-line library which can be searched. Both themes and plug-ins are rated by users so check the rating and try to ensure you choose items with a large number of installations and high ratings.

Security and back-up

Any website is under continuous scrutiny from would-be hackers and spammers. It is essential to keep your site up to date as new security loopholes are always being discovered. Wordpress issues four updates per year and these are very easily installed from your Admin panel. The same applies to Themes and Plugins which are also up-dated regularly. Failure to install these up-dates leaves your

site vulnerable to attack. You could expect to need to visit your site's Admin panel four or five times per year to install up-dates.

Website security is a major topic of its own and there are some excellent free and paid plugins available to improve security from attack - as usual, an online search will come up with plenty of options.

Regular back-ups are the other essential part of your security strategy. You don't want to lose months or years of work and irreplaceable content in the event of a hack. There are numerous solutions. Your web host may well offer a backup service. Alternatively, there are plugins which will back up your site and its worth spending a few dollars, even if your security is the only paid plugin you use. Good choices include Updraft, Backupwp, Vaultpress. The Wordpress multi-functional plugin Jetpack, which is usually pre-installed on new sites, also offers reliable back-up services. It's important to store your back-ups away from your website. This might mean downloading the backup for safe keeping. Options such as Updraft will automatically store your backups in your cloud storage including Dropbox and Google Drive.

Taking your site further

Optimising your site to ensure the content appears prominently in search engines (Search Engine Optimisation - SEO) and measuring visits and other stats are further areas to explore and as usual, there is a wealth of material available through online searches.

While some time and effort are needed to get your club online, hopefully this overview might be a catalyst to reaching out to new members and helping existing members make the most of what you have to offer.

Peter Allan
APF Webmaster.

The Expert Group **(What is its Role at International Exhibitions?)**

The issue of fakes, forgeries and material that has been 'improved' is an issue that is common to all of philately. It is, of course, of major interest at international exhibitions as it can impact judging. For this reason, international exhibitions have an expert group of highly qualified and expert judges who are completely separate from the jury teams. They are tasked with examining material that is brought to their attention by jury teams. Over the past two decades there has been an increased emphasis on the Expert Group at FIP and FIAP exhibitions in particular. This was driven by Mr Tay Peng Hian, the former President of the FIP.

How does an Expert Group work? The Expert Group is separated from the Jury, either in a separate room, or at the least separated within the Jury room. It is the role of each jury team to bring to the attention of the Expert Group, items they would like examined. There may be a multitude of reasons to check an item such as stamps not tied to a cover, a suspicion the item is a forgery or has forged elements (overprint, postmark etc) or a cover has been improved (postmarks that were light have been darkened). The team leader completes the form and hands it to the Expert Group.

The Expert team also examines the exhibits in its own right, i.e. it is not limited to items nominated by the Jury:

CHINA 2016
2-6 DECEMBER 2016
REQUEST TO THE EXPERT GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

(A) Important Notes (please read before filling):
1. All exhibits and boxes should be fully and accurately completed.
2. The Registration Form is meant to register one exhibition item only.
3. If there are more than one item to an exhibit, then one is making options, please use a second Registration Form for the second item, etc.
4. A set of stamps on an exhibit about that are exhibiting the same options may be grouped under one Registration Form.

(B) Registration Information
Exhibit No.: CN16/AU/1001/10004/4
Exhibitor: LEEWARD ISLANDS
Date of Exhibition: 2 DECEMBER 2016
Country of Origin: AUSTRALIA
Category: 1001
Item #: 1004
Class: 4
Type: 100

(C) Notes of Examination
The item is:
1. Is this stamp (or block of stamps) genuine?
2. Is this for the competition?
The item is:
1. Is this stamp (or block of stamps) genuine?
2. Is this for the competition?
The item is:
1. Is this stamp (or block of stamps) genuine?
2. Is this for the competition?
The item is:
1. Is this stamp (or block of stamps) genuine?
2. Is this for the competition?

(D) Expert Group's Action
Why do you take one of the above?
1. No further action (NFA)
2. Get a certificate (C)
3. Not to be shown again (NSA)
4. Disqualified (D)
5. Disqualified (D)

Signature of Expert Group Team Leader: J. Dea
Date: 3 Dec 2016

Figure 1a

- No further action (the item is considered okay);
- Get a certificate from a relevant certifier before showing again; or
- Not to be shown again (for obvious fakes or forgeries).

The Expert Group may also recommend downgrading the exhibit by 1 level of 5 points or more (usually for items without certificates, despite notices being given more than once); or to disqualify the exhibit from this and/or future FIP exhibitions (when there are more than half a dozen of forgeries in the exhibit). The final decision to impose a penalty is with the Jury.

Figure 1a shows an actual request form as used by the jury team and then passed to the expert committee. Figure 1b shows the item in question which in this case had no further action.

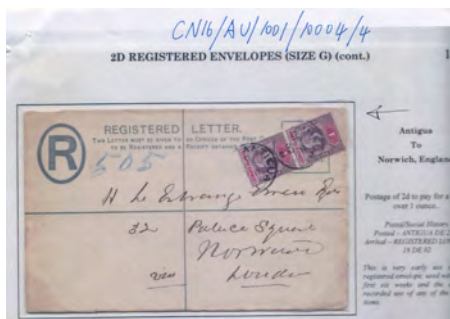


Figure 1b

All the exhibits of the Grand Prix candidates (Grand Prix National, Grand Prix International, Grand Prix d'Honneur and Grand Prix d'Exposition) should be examined immediately

Members of the Expert Group shall judiciously inspect exhibits for new and doubtful items in every competitive class including the most senior group in Youth Class and shall aim for at least 5% of the total number of exhibits.

Then, after the majority of judging has been completed, the Expert Team meets with all the Commissioners. They are then told which Commissioners will need to be present at a certain time as the Expert Group goes around and the pages with the suspect items are removed for examination. This is only done with the Commissioner present.

The Expert Group then examines the items with suitable equipment and make decisions on each item. They do NOT make formal decisions on items but rather make one of three decisions:

for each country will then receive a list of items which will be checked, and they need to indicate the action that has been taken on each.

This sheet is temporarily
removed by The Organizing
Committee

Figure 2

juror should never leak a mark before the final mark is agreed.

Having fakes or forgeries (that are not indicated as such) in an exhibit may not impact [but as noted above the Expert Group can recommend a penalty or disqualification with the Jury making the final decision] the medal given unless the items have previously been flagged and no action taken. However, if the exhibit is up for voting for one of the major awards, having such items would have an impact.

It is interesting to note that in the past most items removed from exhibits were those in traditional philately or postal history. However, I once had my team leader have a postal stationery proof looked at by the Expert Group and it was a fake. In addition, more items within Thematics are being examined, most notably original artists drawings or paintings as these are relatively easily faked. Such items need some sort of endorsement, such as notations made by a postal administration or printer, to be acceptable these days. Another class with unfortunate fakes is Maximaphily and judges need to carefully check cards for faked cancels.

Figure 2 shows what appears in the frame to replace the page taken, and few exhibitors wish to see such pages. The Expert Group can recommend a penalty or other action to the Jury who decide on any penalty and Figure 3 illustrates the form used. In general, it is unlikely the Jury would not take the Expert Group's recommendation on board in coming to a final mark. A corollary to this is that a

FIP WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP	
PRAGA 08 : Review of Exhibit Queried at Previous Exhibition	
Previous Ref No. _____	PRAGA 08 Exhibit No. _____ Frame No. _____ Sheet No. _____
Observations/Comments:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate provided (PRAGA 08) - no photo copy for file <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate not provided (PRAGA 08) <input type="checkbox"/> Item not exhibited (PRAGA 08) <input type="checkbox"/> Did not improve description (PRAGA 08) <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit absent (PRAGA 08) <input type="checkbox"/> No Action (PRAGA 08) as per previous decision <input type="checkbox"/> See below: _____	
Recommendation:	
<input type="checkbox"/> No action - NA (PRAGA 08) <input type="checkbox"/> Do not exhibit again - DNE (PRAGA 08) <input type="checkbox"/> New Certificate required (PRAGA 08) <input type="checkbox"/> Deduct 5 point (PRAGA 08) <input type="checkbox"/> see below: _____	
Expert Group Team Leader _____	Date _____
Signature _____	

Figure 3

The Expert Group remains an important part of any jury and will remain so in the foreseeable future.

Exhibition Timetable and Updates

Covid 19 continues to cause problems with stamp exhibitions and you will note changes from the last issue. The odd exhibition is starting to happen and there was one in Estonia on 10-12 July which I know some English collectors visited. The Jakarta FIP exhibition is still scheduled but the 76th FIP Congress will not be held at it and has been deferred to an unknown date. There is still a question mark over Jakarta because of the difficulty of travel. Don't forget to enter the Australian Virtual Exhibition which will give you an opportunity try out a one-frame exhibit. As expected, Cape Town has been postponed to later in 2021. PhilaNippon has been confirmed and will happen next year.

The next two years are starting to get very crowded and it is hard to see how even a country with many exhibits, like Australia, will be able to fulfil its obligations. I think the odd exhibition may be encouraged to drop off the calendar, or at least move to a later year. The other big change is with Australian national exhibitions. If Melbourne had been in 2021 then Sydney would be in 2023.

However, Perth was already scheduled for 2023, so Sydney will be 2024, bumping Canberra to 2025 (which will allow it to have a special exhibition in 2027 celebrating the 100th anniversary of Parliament House) and Brisbane in 2026. Brisbane may change to 2025 but Canberra would then hold the Australasian Challenge.

The table below has been expanded out to 2026 but as with all such lists some of these will not happen and others will pop up. Check <https://apf.org.au/philatelic-exhibition-timetable/> for updates.

2020	Exhibition	Type	Contact	Close	Comments
13-15 Nov	Hobart	National 1-frame	Cancelled		
5-10 Nov	Indonesia 2020 (Jakarta)	FIP		closed	Will NOT hold the FIP Congress
18-25 Nov	AusVipex 2020	National virtual 1-frame	See website for details and entry forms ausvipex2020.com.au	30 Sep	Australia's first virtual exhibition

2021					
6-9 May	IBRA 2021	FIP	Postponed to 2023		
4-8 Jun	Taipei 2021	FIAP	djbsfuller@inet.net.au (Darryl Fuller)	30 Nov 2020	Postponed from Oct 2020
25-30 Aug	PhilaNippon (Yokohama, Japan)	FIP or FIAP	frankpauer2@bigpond.com Frank Pauer	TBA	
9-10 Oct	Toowoomba	National 1-frame	Exhibition Secretary 2021, QPC PO Box 9471 Wynnum Plaza PO, WYNNUM WEST QLD 4178	5 July 2021	
22-24 Oct	Newcastle	Half National	Moore.john@optusnet.com.au (John Moore)	TBA	Postponed from Oct 2020
7-13 Nov	Cape Town 2021	FIAP	Moore.john@optusnet.com.au (John Moore)	15 May 2021	Postponed from March 2021
19-22 Nov	Notos (Greece)	FEPA or FIP	TBA	TBA	Australian involvement unlikely
?	China	FIAP	TBA	TBA	No details as yet

2022					
19-26 Feb	London 2022	FIP	sbromser@optusnet.com.au (Stephanie Bromser)	Closed	Postponed from May 2020
18-20 Mar	Canberra Stampshow 2022	Half-National	TBA	TBA	
Mar	Hong Kong	FIP or FIAP	TBA	TBA	

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31/3-3/4	Hunfilex (Budapest)	FIP	David.figg@internode.on.net (David Figg)	TBA	
18-22 May	Helvetia (Lugano)	FIP	geoff@brusden-white.com Geoff Kellow	TBA	
9-12 Jun	CAPEX (Toronto)	FIAP or FIP	ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com (Ian McMahon)	TBA	
20-21 Aug	Stampex (Adelaide)	National 1-frame	David.figg@internode.on.net (David Figg)	TBA	
8-11 Sep	Melbourne 2022	FIAP	David.figg@internode.on.net (David Figg)	TBA	Postponed from Feb 2021
Sep	Qatar	FIAP	TBA	TBA	
Oct	Thailand	FIP or FIAP	TBA	TBA	
TBA	Wellington NZ	National	TBA	TBA	Australasian Challenge

2023

TBA	Perth	National	TBA	TBA	
TBA	IBRA 2023 (Essen, Germany)	FIP	ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com (Ian McMahon)	TBA	

2024

TBA	Sydney	National	TBA	TBA	May have PPC Challenge?
TBA	Toowoomba	National 1-frame	TBA	TBA	

2025

March	Canberra	Half-National	TBA	TBA	
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2026

TBA	Brisbane	National	TBA	TBA	May swap to 2025
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Covid-19 Souvenirs



There have been a number of exhibitions cancelled so the APF added a second overprint to items from the NZ and Antarctic exhibitions. These are quite limited in number, so be quick if you want one. Remember the Melbourne 2022 relaunch miniature sheet sold out in days!

The items are as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| 1 | 2020 Antarctic Stamp & Postcard Exhibition overprinted by APF (illustrated) | \$25 each |
| 2 | ditto Antarctic Replica Card (removed from unsold supporter's packs) | \$15 each |
| 3 | NZ 2020 Cook Abandoned Stamp Card | \$15 each |

Go to <https://apf.org.au/product-category/covid19-overprints/> for further details.

Aerophilately versus Postal History The Changing Face of Philately

Darryl Fuller

There has been a significant change in Aerophilately over the last few decades, with interest growing in airmail postal history. That is, the collection and study of commercial airmail covers as opposed to first flight covers. First flight covers are still popular but many collections and exhibits now include commercial airmail covers within aerophilately. This is not something you would have seen a lot of, 20-30 years ago. Further, some collectors are moving from aerophilately to postal history and developing their airmail exhibits as postal history (rates, routes and markings) rather than just route development which dominates aerophilately.



Figure 1 (courtesy Postal Museum)

The Wright brothers flew the first powered aeroplane in 1903 but of course this is not the first flight by man, with balloons having been used in the 19th century. The first officially sanctioned airmail was by balloon (Figure 1). "On August 17, 1859, the balloon Jupiter, piloted by professional balloonist John Wise, attempted a 'transcontinental voyage' from Lafayette, Indiana, to New York City. Although his flight was cut short

by unfavourable weather conditions, Wise earned a place in history by having arranged with Lafayette postmaster Thomas Wood to carry a mail bag containing 123 letters. Previous attempts to carry mail by balloon had not been sanctioned by the Post Office Department" (from the Smithsonian Postal Museum website - <http://postalmuseum.si.edu>). Balloons did not become an important method of mail transport until the siege of Paris and Metz in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. They were used to carry mail out of the city and over the enemy lines into the countryside. Both piloted and unpiloted balloons were used. It is not hard to get an example of a Balloon Monte (Figure 2) with over 2 million flown this way. However, examples used to some countries, like Australia, are very rare and command high prices, with the cover in Figure 2 selling for \$190,000. They are a popular first item in Aerophilatic exhibits.

The first air mail by a powered aircraft was in India in 1911. On February 18, 1911, French pilot Henri Pequet carried the first official mail flown by airplane. He carried a sack with about 6,000 cards and letters on his Humber biplane. The plane flew a distance of five miles, from an Allahabad polo field, over the Yamuna River, to Naini. All mail received a special cancel and aerophilately was born.



Figure 2

Aerophilately has three recognised periods with the pioneer period being up to 1918; the development period from 1919 to 1945; and the modern period post-1945.



Figure 3 (courtesy of Charles Leski Auctions)

The development of aircraft, airlines and air routes fascinated the public, and it is important to realise how important air mail was to the survival of these new companies trying to be regular airlines. Postal administrations paid good money for the transport of the mail and a mail contract often meant the survival of a company. Early aircraft were not large and could not carry a lot of passengers or freight. However, to businesses, saving a day or two or more was worth the expense of air

mail. Indeed, in places like Colombia the air mail could save weeks. The heyday of aerophilately was the late 1920s and early 1930s when collectors wanted souvenirs of flights. There was great fascination with flying and first flight covers were both a souvenir and often a useful fund-raising tool. It is easy to see why collectors clamoured after first flight covers as they were a piece of history. Figure 3 illustrates a cover from the Ross Smith England to Australia flight in 1919 and who wouldn't want such a piece of history, given the trials and tribulations of the flight. Such covers are very popular and sell for between \$5-10,000.

Aerophilately was a separate exhibiting class before postal history. It was a reasonably popular class and Australia had a special Air mail exhibition in Victoria in 1937 with the catalogue illustrated in Figure 4. The prices in one advertisement seem high with signed boomerang covers from the Mrs Bonney flight from Brisbane to South Africa being up to £5 each. This is a very high figure when you consider they are catalogued only in the low hundreds today. Since 1937 aerophilately has remained a popular collecting and exhibiting class, with much of its success due to people like Ernie Crome, Nelson Eustis and Arthur Bergen. The falloff in the number of exhibits over the last 10-15 years is, like other areas of philately, due to collectors selling their collections or passing away.

There has also been a change in the demand for flight covers. There is still great interest in the rare flight covers from the pioneer period and the better covers of the development period. However, aerophilatelists and postal historians have begun looking at the commercial aspects of airmail routes. Not all first flights led to commercial air routes.



Figure 4 (courtesy of State Library of Victoria)



Figure 5 (courtesy of Stampboards.com)

expensive commercial air mail item.

Both postal historians and some aerophilatelists began to realise that it was hard to find commercial air mail covers for some routes. This is particularly true for the period of WWII where air mail became even more expensive and due to the war, there were many route changes. One popular area for postal history are so called “Clipper” covers that flew on oceanic Pan Am Clipper services. An excellent example is shown in Figure 6, which flew from India to Ireland over both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. This particular postal card has everything a postal historian could want, the route, the high rate and the postal markings. This is the reason that some postal historians have now a growing interest in air mail postal history and some Aerophilatelists are changing their exhibits to postal history. You will also find many current aerophilatelic exhibits now have commercial mail included.



Figure 6 (ex eBay)

One of the issues with much commercial mail like this is that it is not always possible to determine the route or confirm the rate for some commercial mail. Indeed, it is often easier to work out the rate and even which ship a cover from the 1840s sailed on, than a flown cover from WWII. One possible source is airline timetables such as shown in Figure 7, however, Pan American stopped publishing some of their timetables after 1941 to avoid aiding the enemy. Despite this, there is a lot of research within Aerophilately to find who flew when and where, and this research feeds well into postal history. Commercial air mail is also, often the only way to get some high value stamps correctly used.



Figure 7 (author's collection)

onward transmission to Sweden, a short trip by boat. In addition to bars and crosses there are many handstamps to indicate such routing with several books written on the marks and where they were used. Figure 9 illustrates one such mark that is in fact quite rare. The cover from Barbados to Australia has an annotation at upper left *By Air/ to Panama* with a bilingual



Figure 9 (Author's collection)

The final aspect of air mail postal history are the air mail markings. Air mail has almost always been expensive but to save time the extra money was paid. However, it was also a possibility to help speed the mail by having it flown part of the way and then reverting to surface transport. This type of mail is often referred to as *Jusqu'à* (meaning 'as far as') mail. For example, it made sense to have your mail flown across the United States from say California to New York and then put on a steamer to London. The steamer only took about three days and in the early days mail couldn't be flown across the Atlantic. So, for many years this type of mail was used either because part of the journey was not possible by air, was no quicker for part of the journey by air or was simply cheaper. In the latter case the letter was partially sped on its way but was not urgent enough to pay the high cost of full airmail. Figure 8 illustrates a typical cover from 1938 from Australia to Sweden. The cover was sent by air to London where the air mail notation was cancelled with two red bars (London had over 70 different such cancellers) and the cover reverted to surface mail for



Figure 8 (Author's collection)

handstamp at lower left which reads *BY AIR MAIL, FROM BARBADOS TO BALBOA C.Z./PAR AVION de BARBADE à BALBOA C.Z.* From the Canal Zone this cover travelled by ship across the Pacific to Australia. What is interesting about this cover is that it is from 1951 and shows how late this type of service was used. Such transport became relatively rare by the mid 1950s but was resurrected in a way when SAL (Surface Air Lift) services began in Australia and other countries for parcels. SAL service was by surface transport on land but by air across oceans.

It is easy to see how aerophilatelists have such an interest in the early development of flight. It can be amazing to think about a cover in

your collection that flew across the Pacific on the first flight by Charles Kingsford Smith - in his pocket and one of four carried. But it is also easy to see how a postal historian can be interested in a commercially flown air mail cover, with the route, rates and markings all of interest. There is no doubt that air mail postal history is becoming quite popular and will continue to do so, but there is much research needed, particularly in relation to air mail rates, which can be difficult to find. Will it impact aerophilately – yes! However, I believe that both will continue. There was some talk of merging Aerophilately into Postal History, but I don't think this should or will happen. The inclusion of the study of air mail stamps within aerophilately also precludes aerophilately being subsumed by the postal history class. There is enough difference between aerophilately and air mail postal history to make both interesting but there is, and will continue to be, overlap between them. It is theoretically possible to take the same group of covers and write them up as either Aerophilately or postal history – it would be an interesting exercise. Over the next decade I see air mail postal history as a growing trend, and it will be up to all Aerophilatelists to ensure that their class does not fade. There is a similar dichotomy between the Thematic class and the Open class but that is a story for another day.

Are You Interested in Aerophilately?

The Australian Airmail Society

The Society was founded in 1968 and is based in South Australia where it has regular meetings. It also has members across Australia and around the world. It publishes a quarterly journal, *The Australian Aerophilatelist*, with articles mainly on Australian air mails. Subscription is \$20 a year across Australia and \$25 for the rest of the world. For further details contact David Figg at David.figg@internode.on.net

Useful Philatelic Websites

This is a new section in APF News which will give a little overview of useful websites for various areas of philately that collectors and exhibitors may find useful. This section will include websites of a not-for-profit nature, such as society websites, and some of a commercial nature. The sites reviewed are for information only and the APF does not endorse the services of any of these sites.

Latin America

The countries of Central and South America are not widely collected in Australia but they have some wonderful philately. The following website provides news, commentary and opinions on Central and South American philately. It lists each country and provides details on any philatelic societies related to the country, plus what is the best catalogue/s for the country. It also details some other sources of philatelic information. There are sections on auctions, dealers, events, post offices, publications and stamp issues.



If you are seeking information on one of the Latin American countries this should be your starting point. The site is up to date, and you can subscribe so that you receive notifications of new posts. My own interest is in airmail postal history and using the site I managed to find links to the airmail rates of Peru (a draft listing) and some information on Uruguay airmail rates. Both were the first I had found. If you have any interest in the area take a look at:

www.classiclatinamerica.com



**AUSTRALASIAN PHILATELIC TRADERS' ASSOCIATION INC.
THE APTA PAGE**

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Perth Stamp & Coin Show to go Ahead

The APTA supported Perth Stamp & Coin Show at the time of writing will still be going ahead on September 19th-20th 2020. Due to the current border restrictions the show has now been changed to include Western Australian Traders only. Show organiser, Ian Boulton said that "all stands have now been filled by Local traders". The Perth Show is an APTA Supported Show. The show as usual will



be held at the South Perth Community Centre and full details can be found at www.perthstampandcoinshow.com.au.

As with all events, given the current situation within Australia it is advised that you check the details. Updates will be advised on the show website or via the APTA website www.apta.com.au

Left: Crowds line up for a previous Perth Stamp & Show

Brisbane Stamp & Coin Show 2020 Cancelled

The APTA supported Brisbane Stamp & Coin Show to be held on November 7-8th 2020 has now been cancelled. The organising committee decided that border restrictions as well as restricted numbers allowed in the venue were two of the major reasons that the show could not proceed. A big percentage of the dealers at this show come from interstate as well as overseas and as I write this the Queensland borders are now shut. The popular Brisbane Show will undoubtedly be held again when restrictions are lifted.

COVID Summary

The recent restrictions imposed on state borders has now virtually caused the stoppage of most major Stamp Shows throughout Australia. It is expected that several states will endeavour to hold shows which involve local traders only, as has been done in Perth. In the short term this will no doubt be the only way until further restrictions are eased. The restrictions however do not seem to be affecting the Internet/Mail order traders as many are reporting increased sales. Many of the Public Auctions have now become online Auctions. With the restrictions it seems many collectors are now spending more time on their collections. The APTA office is still open and operating and we look forward to the times when traders can all return to their regular shows without restrictions.

APTA Vouchers

The following information was included in a recent 'APTA PAGE' but is repeated for the information of holders of APTA Vouchers.

At the 2019 Sydney Stamp and Coin Expo, exhibitors were awarded \$50 gift vouchers to be spent / redeemed with APTA members. Those vouchers had an extended expiry date of 30 June 2020 to permit them to be redeemed at the 2020 Canberra, Auckland and London shows. As all shows were deferred due to travel restrictions, the opportunity for exhibitors to redeem vouchers has been significantly reduced. It seems unlikely there will be any major international shows for the remainder of this year. The APTA Committee has resolved to extend the expiry date of outstanding gift vouchers to cover future exhibitions. This will enable exhibitors every opportunity to use their vouchers.

Moths

Vladimir Kachan

(Ed: An interesting article on a popular thematic, *Lepidoptera*, by collector and exhibitor Vladimir Kachan from Belarus.)



Figure 1 2000 Botswana M/S in moth form.

are knobbed at the tip but moth antennae are either feather-like or plain. Moths are usually thought to be creatures of the night. While this is true of the majority of the 150,000 species, there are a large number that are day-flyers and many moths will fly by day if disturbed. Flying during the day means that in many ways they behave like butterflies, but the structure of their bodies, particularly the way in which their front and hind wings link together, shows that they are moths. Many of them can be seen around flowers and are often mistaken for butterflies. Moths of the *Sphingidae* and *Noctuidae* families (**Figure 3**) – slogan cancel of France 1958



Figure 3 Slogan cancel of France with noctuid moth.

family *Sphingidae* stand out with their unusual way of feeding. The moth does not land on a flower but hangs over it like a helicopter and sucks nectar, stretching out its long proboscis. These moths are excellent fliers. They can cover hundreds of kilometers, and moreover their working wing muscles radiate considerable heat. During movement, the temperature of a flying moth can reach

There are approximately 170,000 known species of butterflies and moths: about one tenth of these are butterflies, and the rest are moths (**Figure 1**). The differences between moths and butterflies include: most butterflies fly by day and most moths fly by night; many butterflies are brightly coloured and many moths are dull-coloured (**Figure 2**); most butterflies hold their wings upright over their backs while most moths rest with their wings flat; and butterfly antennae

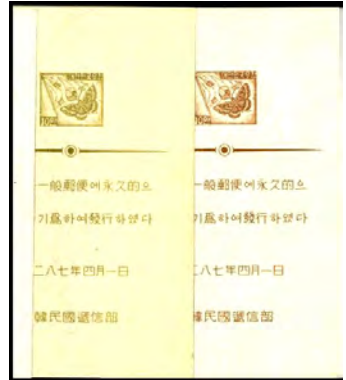


Figure 2 1954 South Korea, the first souvenir sheet issued in the world illustrated with a moth and a M/S variety in green.

pollinators during twilight and nighttime. Some species of moths whose caterpillars feed exclusively on weeds, are used as a biological control agent. The use of the Cactus Moth (*Cactoblastis cactorum*) is widely known. Its caterpillars live on *Opuntia* cacti. In Australia, for its assistance in eradicating the cacti (a bad invasive species), the moth (**Figure 4**) – stamp of Ascension Island 1998) was honoured with a monument. The moths of the



Figure 4 1998 Ascension Island *Cactoblastis* moth.

forty degrees Celsius. The Madagascar sphingid moth (*Xanthopan morgani*) has the longest proboscis known, some 30cm, because it fertilizes a particular orchid (**Figure 5**).



Figure 6 1968 Fiji stamp with missing green (value).

rays of a distant luminary at an angle of eighty degrees. When confused by a ground light source, they fly in narrowing spiral turns, which often causes them to perish. That is why some nature reserves do not allow the use of outside electric lights during warm seasons. In addition, the use of streetlights with intensive ultra-violet radiation is undesirable and especially their use away from settlements. One may see substantial differences in the duration of a life of moths. Moths of families *Cossidae*, *Lasiocampidae*, *Lymantriidae*, *Psychidae* do not have a developed proboscis and cannot take food. They live exclusively owing to adipose (fat) stock accumulated by the larva and die after several days. Many moths suck nectar and live several weeks or even months. Males of moths share certain peculiarities. Their fern-like antennae are dotted with sensory cells, the organs for their sense of smell. Females attract males by secreting a special scent. The only function of a mature male during his short life is to find a female by this scent and to mate with her. For instance, the males of the *Saturniidae* family (**Figure 7**) have such a developed sense of smell that they can find a female at a kilometer distance.



Figure 5 1985 Malagasy sphingid moth



Figure 7 1971 Belgian stamp of moth *Actis Luna*

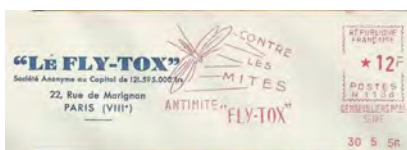


Figure 8 1956 French meter mark for the *Tineidae* moth.

clothes-moth, i.e. various species of the genus *Tinea*, tiny insects which lay their eggs in woolen clothes, upon which the larvae later feed. As the larva feeds it makes a cocoon of its silk together with fibers of the cloth on which it is feeding, so that the color of the cocoon depends upon the color of the fabric. The adult is only indirectly harmful (**Figure 9**) – service postal stationery of Swiss post 1954 with moth advertisement), as it is only in the larval stage that the insect injures clothing. The brown-tail (*Euproctis chrysorrhoea*) is a moth of the family *Lymantriidae*. Its caterpillars live in colonies. One nest usually has 200-300 and sometimes up to 2000

There are a considerable number of pests of agricultural plants and forests among moths. The moths of family *Tineidae* damage clothing and agricultural crops (**Figure 8**). The Biblical references are to the



Figure 9 1954 Swiss service postal stationery envelope with moth ad.

caterpillars. Initially they skeletonize the upper sides of leaves (**Figure 10**) and later they start to form winter nests together. Caterpillars abandon their nests in spring during bud blossoming of fruit trees. In the beginning, they eat in the afternoon, gnawing buds, sometimes completely destroying them, and disappear into their refuges at night. Then they gnaw leaves, leaving only the central veins. Polyphagous caterpillars damage rosaceous fruits, such as apple, pear, cherry, sweet cherry, plum, quince, apricot etc., and also deciduous forest species, such as chestnut, willow, maple, poplar etc., but often preferring oak and linden. Control measures include cutting and burning branches that bear winter nests after defoliation and insecticide spraying in spring during bud blossoming in orchards.



Figure 11 1965
Romanian Gypsy moth.

Tortricidae live in the roots, branches and trunks of leaf-bearing trees, where they make long passages, the result of which is that the trees die. Lackey Moths (*Malacosoma Neustria*) are a pest of fruit gardens, especially of apple-trees and also of oak groves. The caterpillars of this moth damage the leaves all fruit species, making large web nests. The diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella*), sometimes called cabbage moth, is a European moth believed to originate in the Mediterranean region that has since spread worldwide. The moth is highly fecund and is capable of migrating long distances. It is one of the most important pests of cruciferous crops in the world (**Figure 12**).

Although a few species of moth are harmful, moths such as the silkworm (**Figure 13** – the first meter mark with silkworm, Germany 1937) are useful to people. From prehistoric times, mankind has been producing beautiful textiles made of natural silk from chrysalises of the Silkworm Moth caterpillars (*Bombyx mori*). At first silk was only produced in China.



Figure 13 The first meter mark illustrating a silkworm (Germany 1937).



Figure 10 1965 USSR postal stationery card of the brown-tail moth.



Figure 12 Artwork for 1988 Mauritania diamond back moth.

According to legend, the empress Leizu “discovered” silk four thousand years ago. She had tea in the garden, and a cocoon of a silkworm fell in her cup by chance. Trying to take it away by silk thread, she got the first thread, having unwound the chrysalis. Silk fibre, from which chrysalises are composed, is the main material for silk production in the textile industry. One gets from 300 to 1000 meters of silk thread, sometimes even up to 4000 meters (**Figure**



Figure 14 1960 Romanian postal stationery card illustrating silk cloth.



Figure 16 Artwork for 1965 North Korean designer's drawing for *Samia cynthia*.

is then added to curries and soups. In some areas of Africa, the large, spiny mopane worms (caterpillars of the *Gonimbrasia belina* moth) are so popular that when they are in season, crawling all over village and jungle trees, the sale of beef and other protein meats is seriously affected. The caterpillars are found mainly in the bushveld from Mozambique and



Figure 18 1991 Venda postal stationery card illustrating dried Mopane worms.

14). From the chrysalis of the Chinese Tussah Moth (*Antheraea pernyi*) they get light golden tussah silk (**Figure 15**), which makes an excellent hard-wearing fabric. The textile industry uses chrysalises of the Ailanthus Silk moth (*Samia synthia*) as well (**Figure 16**).

The caterpillars and chrysalises of some species of moths are used in cookery by many peoples, especially those of Africa, South America and Australia. In Thailand, China, Vietnam, India, Korea, Japan and other Asian countries where there was a silk industry, cocoons of silkworm moth were collected and sold commercially and the pupae boiled, steamed, baked, fried, or roasted, depending on locality and individual preference (**Figure 17** – special cancel of Japan 1937 with silkworm cocoon). In China they are pickled with salt or softened with water and fried with chicken eggs in an omelet, or simply fried with diced onion and a thick sauce. In Thailand, in 1987, the Thai Ministry of Public Health included silkworm pupae on a list of local foods that could be used in supplementary food formula developed for malnourished infants and pre-school children. They are fried and ground into a coarse powder that



Figure 15 Artwork for 1965 North Korean designer's drawing for *Antheraea pernyi*.



Figure 17 1937 Japanes cancel featuring silkworm cocoon.

the pungent-smelling insides. Later, the women stew them with tomato, onion, and a wild spinach-like green, or fry them, then sprinkle them with salt and lemon juice. Leftover mopane may be dried in the sun. Any way they are prepared, South African government researchers claim that just twenty of the protein-rich caterpillars (**Figure 18** – Venda inland

postcard 1991 with Mopane Worms) will satisfy an adult male's entire daily requirement for calcium, phosphorus, riboflavin, and iron. Australian aborigines feasted on Bogong moths (*Agrotis infusa*) harvesting them in large numbers during the winter months from the caves and crevices of rock when gathered in mass (**Figure 19**). They roasted the moths in hot ashes where their legs and wings fully burn. Then they sieve them through a mesh to eliminate the moth heads. The resulting mass is kneaded and molded into pellets that are fried in an open flame, or the moths milled into a powder that is diluted with water until obtaining a kind of cookie dough.



Figure 20 Artwork for 1997 Cook Islands moth with warning colours.

color on their upper sides. A moth sitting on a tree is barely noticeable, but when it is disturbed it spreads its forewings to the sides, showing its bright hind wings (on eye-like spots). The unexpected appearance of the bright signal frightens off enemies, usually birds. The moths of family *Sessidae* (**Figure 21**) resemble hymenopterous insects (bumbees, bees, wasps, hornets), which are untouched by birds.



Figure 22 1959 Ryuku Islands stamp with Atlas moth.

agrippa moth (*Thysania agrippina*) from South America (**Figure 23**) has the largest wingspan of any moth in the world (up to 32 cm). One of the strikingly beautiful *Saturniidae* family, the Madagascan Moon Moth (*Argema mittrei*), has large startling eyespots on its wings. The male has a wingspan of twenty centimetres and a tail span of fifteen centimetres (**Figure 24** – Deluxe proof of Republic Malagasy 1960), making it one of the world's largest moths.



Figure 19 1991 Australian maximum card featuring Bogong moths.

In the process of evolution, different species of moths gained specific attributes, which serve as a defense against enemies. Many moths of family *Sphingidae*, *Arctiidae*, *Hyblaeidae* (**Figure 20**) and *Noctuidae* have their peculiar wing colouring, combining both protective and demonstrative elements. The upper side of wings is a pale color with zigzag lines, hind wings have bright



Figure 21 1986 Vietnam stamp showing moth which is wasplike.

Among the moths there are record setters in length of wings. The moths of family *Tineidae*, *Geometridae* and *Pyrilidae* have a wingspan from several millimeters to 30 centimeters. The Atlas Moth (*Attacus atlas*) with a wingspan of 25 cm is a representative of Asia (**Figure 22**). The world's largest moth in overall size has a wing area of some 300 cm². The giant



Figure 23 1983 Suriname stamp with giant agrippa moth.



Figure 24 Deluxe proof of 1960 Malagasy stamp for Madagascan Moon moth.

conifers a silver nun's moth". So far, the moth (a forest pest), indicating the natural disaster of 1889, is a unique symbol in the Bavarian heraldry (fig26 – meter mark of Germany 2011 with moth *Lymantria monacha* on the Kirchseeon coat of arms). British aircraft designer Geoffrey de Havilland was an avid lepidopterist and described the way in which the aircraft's wings could be folded back against the fuselage for storage as being like a moth. Moths fold their wings back along their bodies when at rest, and de Havilland arranged for his DH.60 to do the same, so you could tow it on the road behind a car and keep it in an ordinary garage. During the 1920s the de Havilland Aircraft Company developed a line of light aircraft for the civilian postwar market intended to be affordable and easy to fly (fig27 – D.H. Moth violet cancel 1927 on Indian stationery card).



Figure 26 2011 meter mark with Kirchseeon coat of arms with Nun moth in the Arms.

moths on stamps, cancels, and postal stationery.

The author is always glad to help fellow philatelists create butterfly and moth philatelic exhibits. His contact details are:

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HORNA is the name of a company in the Dutch city Maastricht. It produces pigment and because of the nice colours of moths they depict such an insect as their logo (Figure 25). Kirchseeon is a market town in the Upper district of Ebersberg in Germany. Buch is Kirchseeon's oldest constituent community, having had its first documentary mention in 809CE. The community grew quickly once the surrounding woodlands fell victim to a natural disaster in 1889 in the form of a Nun Moth (*Lymantria monacha*) infestation. In 1957 the municipality of Kirchseeon received the permission of the state ministry of the interior to have the following coat of arms: "Surrounded by green between two rooted golden



Figure 25 1978 Netherlands company HORNA with logo like a *Urania* moth in a meter mark.

Moths come in a wide variety of sizes and colors and can be a most fascinating creature to observe. I hope that my article will stimulate the interest in Lepidoptera philatelists in further researches of



Figure 27 D.H. Moth violet cancel on 1927 Indian postal stationery card.

AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC FEDERATION

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