



Australian Philatelic Federation

“AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC FEDERATION LIMITED”

(INC. IN ACT)

ACN 008 603 763 ABN 42 008 603 763

Subject: Proposed Schedule for Upcoming Zoom Training Sessions

Dear State Councils,

I hope this message finds you well.

Earlier, I reached out seeking input for potential Zoom training sessions targeted at exhibitors and collectors. As many of you know, the Australian Philatelic Federation (APF) has successfully hosted Zoom training for jury team leaders and members over the past two years. These sessions are now available on our website as YouTube videos for easy access.

The feedback we've received has ranged from a lack of interest to requests for more technical philatelic content. However, many clubs have expressed interest in a beginner's course, followed by a second series covering more advanced, technical topics in philately.

With this in mind, I've put together a proposed schedule for a 10-session Zoom course on Philately and Stamp Collecting. Each session can be about 45 to 60 minutes, depending on the pace and depth of the material.

Please review the schedule, and feel free to suggest any tweaks or adjustments based on your council's feedback.

Philately & Stamp Collecting Course Schedule

Session 1: Introduction to Philately

- **Overview of Philately:** What is philately and why is it important?
- **History of Stamp Collecting:** From the Penny Black to modern-day issues.
- **Basic Terminology:** Understanding philatelic terms (e.g., perforations, cancellations, issues).
- **Course Overview:** What will be covered in the next sessions.

Homework: Research the first-ever stamp issue from your country.

Session 2: Getting Started with a Stamp Collection and traditional collections

- **Essential Supplies:** Albums, tongs, magnifiers, and storage options.
- **Types of Stamps:** Definitive, commemorative, airmail, revenue, etc.
- **How to Sort and Organize Stamps:** By country, theme, year, etc.
- **What is a cover:** and why collect them

Activity: Show and tell: Share a stamp from your personal collection.

Session 3: Understanding Stamp Design & Printing Techniques

- **How Stamps Are Made:** Printing processes, engraving, lithography, and offset.
- **Stamp Design:** What goes into the creation of a stamp, including famous designers and iconic issues.
- **Analyzing Stamp Features:** Watermarks, perforations, and paper types.

Homework: Pick one of your favourite stamp and research its design and production process.

Session 4: Early Stamps and Postal History

- **Pre-Stamp Postal Systems:** How letters were sent before stamps existed.
- **The Penny Black and Other Early Stamps:** History and significance.
- **Famous Early Stamp Issues:** Australia, UK, and other early stamp-producing countries.

Discussion: Share your thoughts on early stamps and how they shaped communication.

Session 5: The Value of Stamps

- **What Makes a Stamp Valuable:** Rarity, condition, age, demand, and historical significance.
- **Grading Stamps:** How stamps are graded (Mint, Used, etc.).
- **Stamp Auctions & Market Trends:** Where to buy and sell stamps.

Activity: Estimate the value of a stamp from your collection (research).

Session 6: Thematic and Topical Collecting

- **What is Thematic Collecting?** Collecting stamps around a central theme (e.g., animals, sports, space).
- **Topical vs. Traditional Philately:** How these two styles differ.
- **Building a Thematic Collection:** How to create and expand a thematic collection.

Homework: Begin a thematic collection on a single hanger sheet (e.g., birds, world flags, or historical landmarks).

Session 7: Stamp Preservation and Care

- **Handling Stamps:** Best practices to avoid damage (use of tongs, gloves, etc.).
- **Stamp Storage:** Albums, stockbooks, and protective sleeves.
- **Environmental Factors:** Humidity, light, and temperature—keeping your collection in top condition.

Activity: Organize your collection into an album or stockbook.

Session 8: Cancellations, Errors, and Variations

- **Understanding Postmark Cancellations:** How they affect value.
- **Errors and Variations:** Famous printing errors and their significance.
- **Collecting Cancellations:** Types and how to identify rare or valuable cancellations.

Discussion: Share any rare cancellation or stamp error you may have come across.

Session 9: The World of Stamp Exhibitions

- **What Is a Stamp Exhibition:** The importance of philatelic exhibitions.
- **How to Participate in a Stamp Exhibition:** From entry forms to judging criteria.
- **Famous Stamp Exhibitions:** Examples and insights into world-class exhibitions.

Homework: Research a major upcoming stamp exhibition.

Session 10: Advanced Collecting: Specialized Areas

- **Postal History and Covers:** Exploring the history behind covers, and why they're collectible.
- **Air Mails, Revenue Stamps, and Errors:** Diving deeper into specialized collecting.
- **Picture Postcards:** Discovering the joy of postcards and their glory days.
- **Philatelic Societies and Clubs:** How to connect with other collectors and access resources.

Final Activity: Share your collection and what you've learned throughout the course.

Conclusion & Certificate of Completion

- **Q&A:** Open floor for any remaining questions.
 - **Course Review:** Recap of key lessons and topics.
 - **Certificate:** Award digital completion certificates (if applicable).
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This structure provides a comprehensive yet digestible way to explore philately, starting from the basics and progressing to advanced topics. If the councils are happy for the APF to progress with this Zoom Course, more detail or specific ideas for each session will be added?

I anticipate this zoom course could start after the APF AGM and would require a concerted effort by all councils to publicised this course.

As always, looking forward to your positive responses and active involvement to progress the hobby and this course.

Kind Regards



Glen Stafford
Vice President
Australian Philatelic Federation