

The first is the proliferation of collectable issues by postal authorities around the world, of which Australia Post is a good example. Many collectors have simply said enough and only collect older issues. This in itself is likely to make modern issues scarcer over time. However, I know that Australia Post has taken on the concerns of philatelists and is looking at taking a new approach to stamp issues.

There would be the regular issues (and I don't mean just definitives) aimed at the postal service and stamp collectors. The other issues would be aimed at people with interests in the topic rather than the stamps – such as P-stamps for Harry Potter, sports wins etc. Both are profitable markets to Australia Post and whether we like it or not they are charged with making a profit. This delineation should improve the hobby but I would agree that I don't think that they have the balance right just yet.

The second issue was the stamp boom of the 1970s. This led to rampant speculation and of course the bubble burst. Many stamps are not back to their 1970's values after 30 years, but some are – with interest in rare stamps, postal history, proofs and such material stronger than ever. Just look at the sale of Arthur Gray's kangaroo collection to see this. This will continue for some time but the counter point to this is that straight stamps are often much harder to sell. Why is this? One of the answers is eBay where anyone can sell almost anything. Once upon a time if you had a good British Commonwealth collection you might auction it, or more likely sell it to a dealer at a reasonable percentage of catalogue. They mark it up 50-200% and sell it. In doing so, they maintain prices at a reasonable level. However, with eBay it is pushing down the price of stamps because anyone can sell their material without going through a dealer. The same is often not true for postal history or revenue stamps but that is a different story. The point I would like to make is that every day stamps have fallen in value and eBay, with its quite large volumes if material is changing the dynamics of the hobby.

There is another impact on the hobby, the quest for "sexy" material for exhibits but I will keep this for another editorial or article. Philately is still strong and although the volunteer component of organized philately is not strong (as with virtually all volunteer organizations) I still believe that the hobby has a future.

Enjoy the first issue of Volume 26 and a special thanks to Jenni Creagh and Bruce Parker for helping get this issue out, albeit late. I accept responsibility for the late issue and will endeavour to rectify this in future issues by putting new procedures in place – but remember we always need articles.

Darryl Fuller

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANBERRA, Part 1

Ian McMahon

The Philatelic Society of Canberra was established on 9 November 1932 at a meeting held at the Hotel Canberra, now the Canberra Hyatt. 2007 therefore marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society.



### The Society's First Year

On the evening of the ninth of November 1932, eleven men and women met at the Hotel Canberra. The meeting appointed Mr Shakespeare as chairman. Dr C Finlay moved a motion calling for the formation of a Philatelic Society which was seconded by Professor J Haydon. With the carriage of this motion the Philatelic Society of Canberra came into being. Those present were: Dr C Finlay, Rev. H W Woodhouse, Prof J F Haydon,

### PHILATELIC SOCIETY Monthly Displays Of Stamps

The Philatelic Society of Canberra, was formed on Wednesday evening. The Hon. Archdale Parkhill was elected Patron, with Rev. H. W. Woodhouse president, Dr. C. Finlay and Prof. Haydon, vice-presidents, Messrs. H. C. Deane, E. H. Harvie, and J. F. Hopkinson, general committee, and Mr. J. W. Shakespeare, hon. secretary and treasurer.

The meeting decided to hold monthly meetings on the third Tuesday in each month and fixed the next meeting for Tuesday, December 20, at Hotel Canberra, when Mr. W. W. C. Weale will display his collection of British Colonials and Balkan States. Further displays have been promised by members.

Special attention is being made by the society in regard to the junior section and the hon. secretary will be pleased to hear from junior collectors so that efforts may be made to instruct and help them in the display of their respective collections.

### THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANBERRA.

At an enthusiastic meeting of stamp collectors from Canberra and Queanbeyan, another society was formed in the National Capital early this month, under the name of the Philatelic Society of Canberra.

The Hon. Archdale Parkhill, Postmaster-General, was elected to the position of Patron, with Rev. H. W. Woodhouse as President, Dr. C. Finlay and Prof. Haydon, Vice-Presidents, Messrs. E. H. Harvie, H. C. Deane and E. F. Hopkinson, general Committee, and Mr. J. W. Shakespeare as Secretary, Treasurer and Exchange Superintendent.

The membership to the Society was fixed at 2/6 application fee, with 5/- per annum for local members, and 3/6 for interstate members, while the rate for junior members between the ages of 14 and 18 was fixed at 2/6 per annum.

Meetings were fixed for the third Tuesday in each month, and at the next meeting to be held at the Hotel Canberra on Tuesday, December 20, Mr. W. W. C. Weale has consented to show his collection of British Colonials and Balkan States.

The Society decided to issue an exchange book, the first of which will be issued in December. The Hon. Secretary will be pleased to hear from any collectors at his address, Red Hill, Canberra.

From present indications, the Canberra Society promises to grow into a healthy body, as in Canberra there are many collectors who are very enthusiastic, and quite a large number of junior collectors.

ASM 1 DEC 1932

E.H. Harvie, H Chapman, H C Deane, J F Hopkinson, W C Weale, J W Shakespeare, Mrs F Finlay and Miss E Rowe. In addition seven people sent apologies. These eighteen people (Table 1) then became the foundation members of the Philatelic Society of Canberra.

The meeting went on to elect a patron (Hon Archdale Parkhill, the Postmaster-General) and the first committee. The first president was H Woodhouse, the first vice-presidents were Professor Haydon and Mr Finlay while the first Secretary/Treasurer/Exchange Superintendent was Mr Shakespeare. (How did one person ever handle all of this?) Messrs Kendall and Weale were appointed the first auditors. Other members of the first committee were Messrs Deane, Hopkinson and Harvie.

The subscriptions for the society were set at 5/- for ordinary members, 3/6 for associate members and 1/- for junior members with a 2/6 application fee. The society's first constitution was also presented to the meeting. The stated aims of the society were:

- the cultivation, study and advancement of Philately in all its branches
- to hold meetings for exchanging information, reading papers, delivering lectures on Philately and for discussion thereon.
- to provide a medium for the exchange and/or sale of stamps
- to transact other business as may promote or facilitate the study of philately

Other business conducted at the first meeting of the society included the exchange superintendent being asked to make up the first exchange book and the members present being asked to indicate their collecting interests – seven gave their area of collecting as 'General' (although Mr Weale collected 'General and Balkan States') while the remainder collected British Empire (Professor Haydon also collected post-war Europe). The meeting concluded by deciding that future meetings should be held on the third Tuesday of each month.

The second meeting of the society was held at the Hotel Canberra on 20 December 1932. Nine members attended. Three new members were accepted (Messrs Kendall, Rosenbloom and Oxbarrow). The Hon A Parkhill had indicated his acceptance of the position of patron and had enclosed a donation of one guinea. At this meeting the secretary was requested to write a letter to Mr Parkhill requesting that Philatelic Bureau be set up in each

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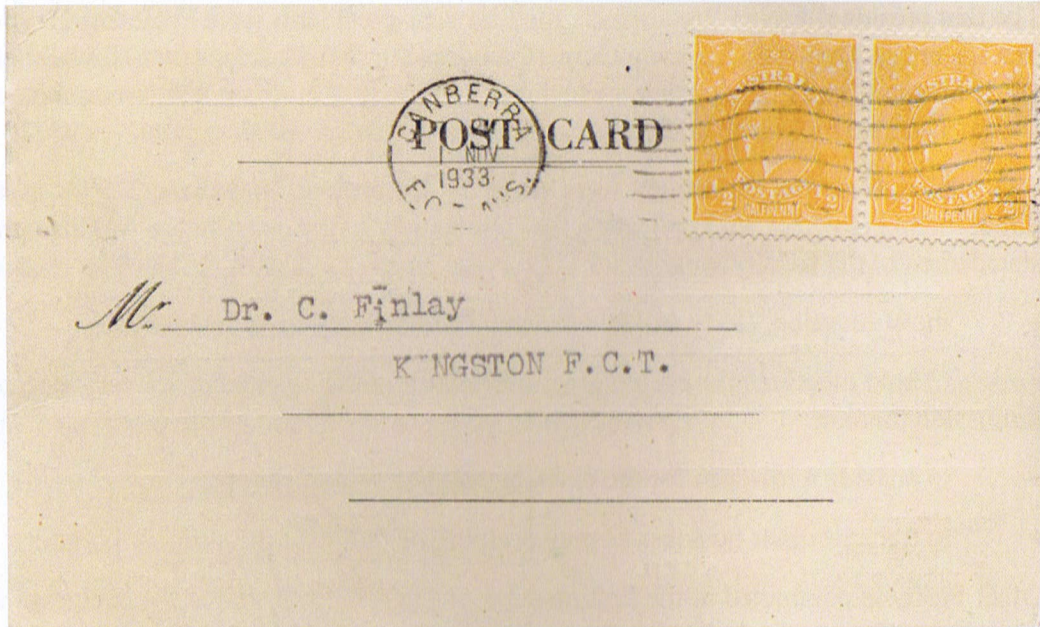


capital city.

At the Society's third meeting (which was held at the residence of Mr E Harvie at Kingston on 21 January 1933), members present were treated to a display by Messrs Shakespeare and Weale and were also informed of a invitation from the Yass Stamp Club for Canberra members to visit one of their meetings. No meeting was held in February 1933 through the lack of a quorum although a number of Canberra members did visit the Yass Stamp Club in that month. The next meeting then was held in March at the Central Methodist Church Hall at Forest. Mr Walker displayed his collection of West Indies and the Pacific. In correspondence a letter had been received from the Postmaster-General's Department saying that the Department would not consider opening philatelic bureaus in capital cities as this would be in direct competition with stamp dealers. Six visitors from the Yass Stamp Club were present including the President Mrs Holliday. Mr Shearsby from the Yass club showed one of the designs he had submitted to the PMG Department for the 1927 Canberra issue and a design he had prepared for the new pictorial issue. Mr Woodhouse suggested that the latter design, featuring a native, be sent to the Society's patron with a request that it be considered for inclusion in the new pictorial issue.

At the June meeting of the Society the Exchange Superintendent complained that members had not been circulating the exchange book properly (- have things really changed?) and he advised that the second exchange book was in preparation. At the July meeting, which was held at the Methodist Hall Reid, Mr Woodhouse spoke on 'The History of Stamp Collecting'. This talk was written up the next day in the Canberra Times. Also at this meeting members present decided that future meetings would be held on the second Wednesday of the month. At the October meeting the exchange superintendent reported that he had broken up the first exchange book. The book had a value of 8 pounds 9/5, sales were 4 pounds 8/7 (almost 50%!) and there was a net profit to the society of 8/8. He also reported that the second book was being circulated. Dr Walker displayed his collection of New Zealand and Samoa.

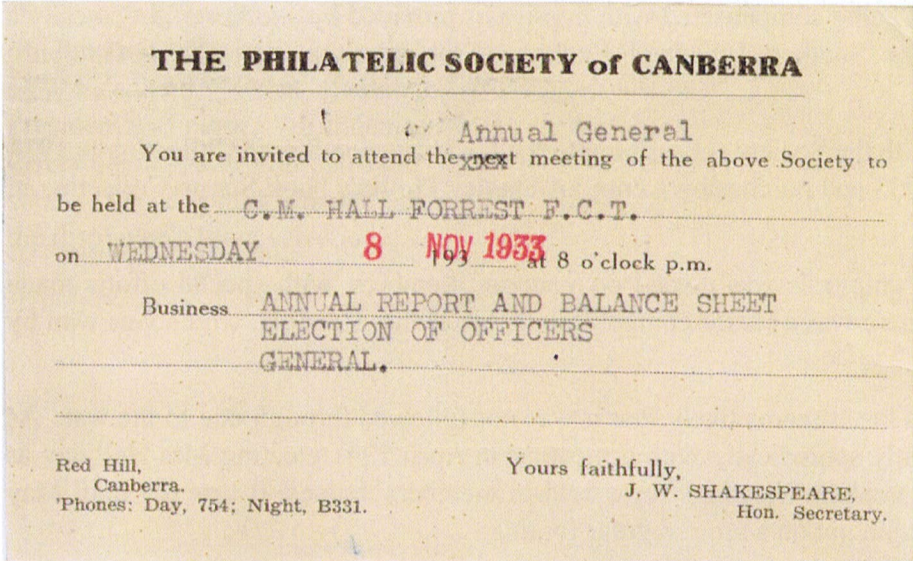
The first annual general meeting of the Society was held on 8 November 1933. The annual report showed a surplus for the year of one pound 7/7 and that the Society now had 25 members. The report also suggested that attempts be made to encourage juniors to the society. Members were also requested to adhere to the two day rule in



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANBERRA.

On Saturday evening, February 11, members of the Philatelic Society of Canberra paid an official visit to the Yass Stamp Club, at the invitation of Mrs. Holliday, President of the Yass Club. The visit was a great success, and, it is hoped, will be the forerunner of inter-club visits between Yass and Canberra, and thus help philatelists in both centres. At the present time the membership of the Yass Stamp Club is composed mostly of ladies whose interest in the hobby is very keen under the leadership of Mrs. Holliday (President) and Mrs. A. J. Shearsby (Secretary). Mrs. Holliday showed a fine collection of Commonwealth, while Mr A. J. Shearsby's collection of India and Indian States was much admired. The members of the Yass Club decided to join in the exchange book of the Philatelic Society of Canberra, while a joint meeting of the two clubs will be held at Canberra on March 21 next.

ASM 1 MAR 1933



passing on the exchange books. The report noted that there had to date been no meetings of the committee during the year but it was hoped that these should start shortly. The meeting elected Professor Haydon, from the Canberra University College (now part of the ANU), as the new president, Rev Woodhouse and Rev Walker as Vice-Presidents and Messrs Finlay, Deane and Harvie as committee members. Mr Shakespeare remained as Secretary/Treasurer/Exchange Superintendent. Mr Shakespeare worked at the Canberra Times and

was a stalwart of the Society for many years.

Table 1	Foundation Members of the Philatelic Society of Canberra (based on Salisbury 1992)
Dr C Finlay	Medical practitioner, Kingston
Rev. H W Woodhouse	Minister, Methodist Church Forrest
Prof J F Haydon	Professor of Modern Languages, Canberra University College (the Haydon-Allen Building and the Haydon-Allen Tank are named after him).
E H Harvie	Dentist, Kingston
H Chapman	
H C Deane	Solicitor Queanbeyan
J F Hopkinson	Storeman, Causeway
W C Weale	Public servant, Barton
J W Shakespeare	Canberra Times
F Finlay	From Braddon
E Rowe	Nurse, Canberra Community College
Hon. A E Green	MHR for Kalgoorlie, PMG 1931
Hon J A Perkins	MHR for Eden-Monaro
L H Kendall	First Society auditor
C Brinkman	From Griffith
Dr J A James	Medical practitioner (the John James Hospital was named after him)
H B Dickson	Solicitor
Rev Dr J Walker.	Presbyterian minister

The 1930s and 40s

The Society continued to meet regularly until 1939. In 1934 meetings continued to be held at the Methodist Hall at Forrest as most members lived on the south-side with an occasional meeting at the Canberra Times building. However, by 1938 most meetings were being held at member's homes. Meetings were originally on the third Tuesday of the month but were later changed to the second Wednesday. Reciprocal visits with the Yass and Goulburn Clubs were a feature of the Society's meetings during this period. Goulburn and Cooma stamp clubs formed in 1935. By the 1936 AGM, membership stood at 12 adults and 4 juniors.

Meetings generally comprised Society business followed by a display. At the 1936 AGM, the notion of a 'Syllabus' for the forthcoming year was introduced. Displays concentrated on Australia and British Commonwealth material. Mr J Halligan of the Postmaster General's Department gave a talk on the First Official New Guinea-Australia Air Mail at the October meeting. The 1938 Syllabus lists 'displays' including: 5 minute papers; Papua New Guinea, Nauru, British Solomon Islands; other Pacific Islands; Airmails; Juniors Competition; Adult Competition, British Colonies, Visit to Yass. An 'exchange' session was held after the Display.

Generally one exchange book was circulated each year, with constant pleas for more material. In 1935 the



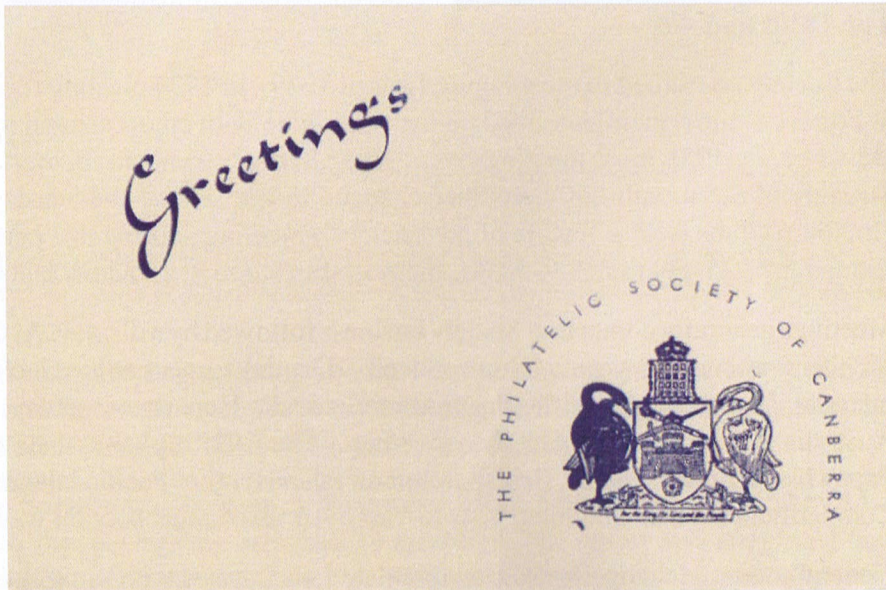
exchange book was lost with members being compensated with duplicates provided by another of the Society's members. In 1936 the Society formed the 'Southern Tablelands Exchange Club' in conjunction with the Goulburn Stamp Club.

The first notions of a 'library' began with the Society subscribing to the UK magazine Stamp Collecting in 1934 and to Stanley Gibbons Monthly in 1935 and purchasing a copy of Stanley Phillip's book Stamp Collecting in 1936.

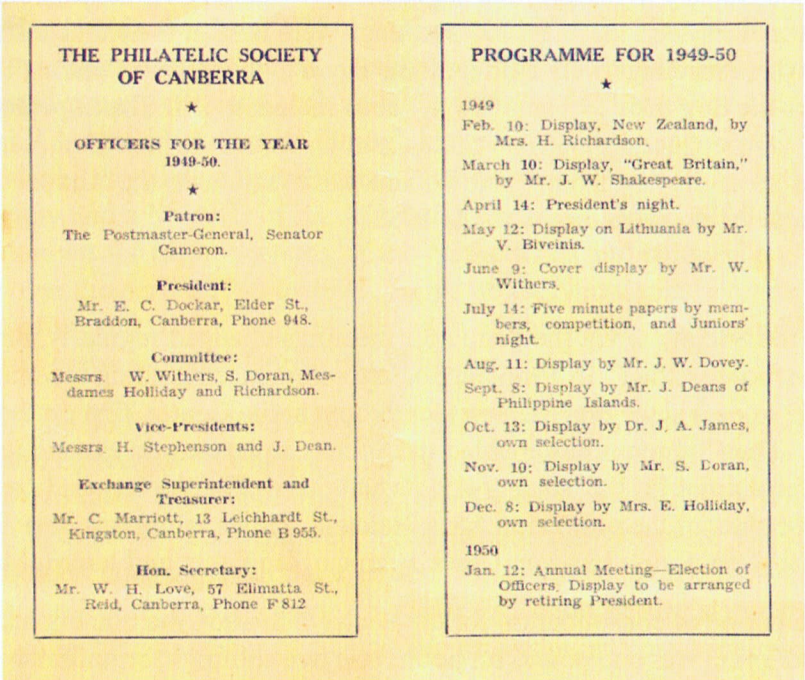
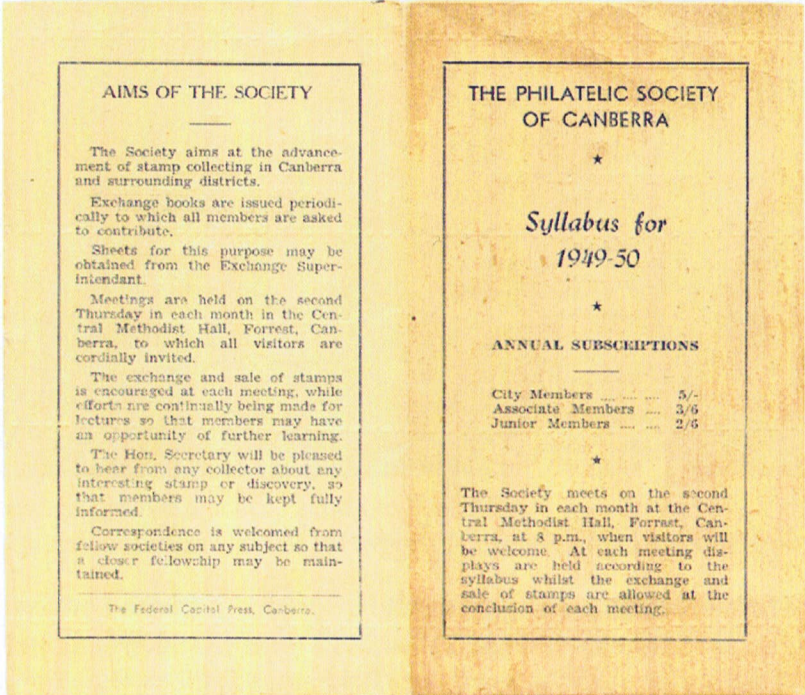
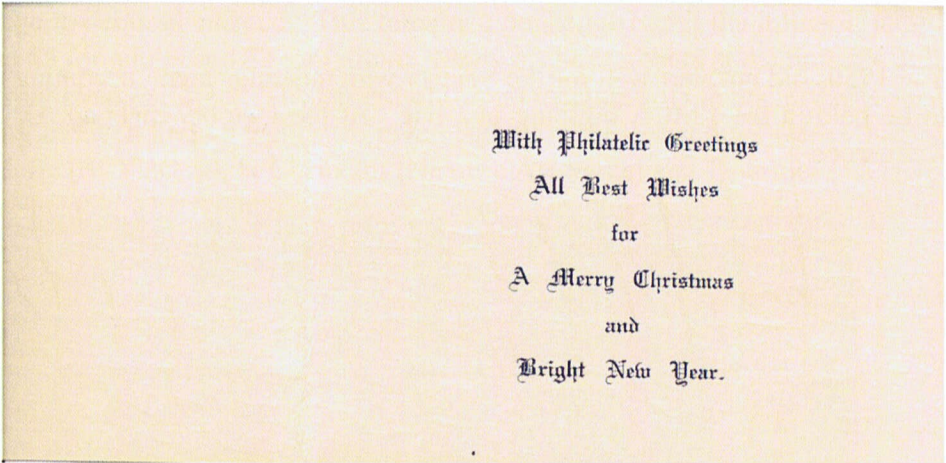
Throughout this period, considerable emphasis was placed on younger members, with special efforts made to recruit and train juniors. In 1937 there was a junior competition, A Philatelic Alphabet, which was won by Master Ray Hollins.

For 1939 a full syllabus was proposed but it seems likely that it was not followed through due to the war. As a result of the war, the Society met only sporadically with a meeting in April 1941 electing Mrs Holliday as President, the Society's first female president. Meetings were held in members' homes. It was not until May 1946, however, that the Society was again put on a more regular footing.

The Society was reasonably active during the period 1946 until 1949 with meetings held in members' homes or the Methodist Hall on the third Thursday of the month. Visits were made to Yass and attempts made to revive the exchange circuit. By the January 1948 AGM, the Society had 29 members and 4 juniors and a number of books had been purchased for the 'Library'. One initiative during this period was the production of blank first day covers with the Canberra coat-of-arms for use by members in 1946. In the same year the Society produced Christmas cards for members' use receiving £1/4/- from their sale. This was repeated in 1947. In 1948 the Society agreed to a request from the Queanbeyan Chamber of Commerce and the West Queanbeyan Progress Association for the production of a FDC to be used with the William Farrer commemorative stamp, which was issued on 12 July 1948. The Society sold 3,000 serviced FDCs as well as many unserviced covers. The



1949-50 program provided details of meeting displays including New Zealand, Great Britain, President's night, Lithuania, Cover display, and Philippines as well as two displays which were the displayer's 'own selection'.





## 1950s

The 1950s did not start well for the Society with meetings again becoming irregular. By 1952 meetings began to be held in the YMCA building in Civic. At the October meeting, Dr John James showed his exhibit of Kangaroos.



*November 1956 meeting of the Society – who do you recognise?*

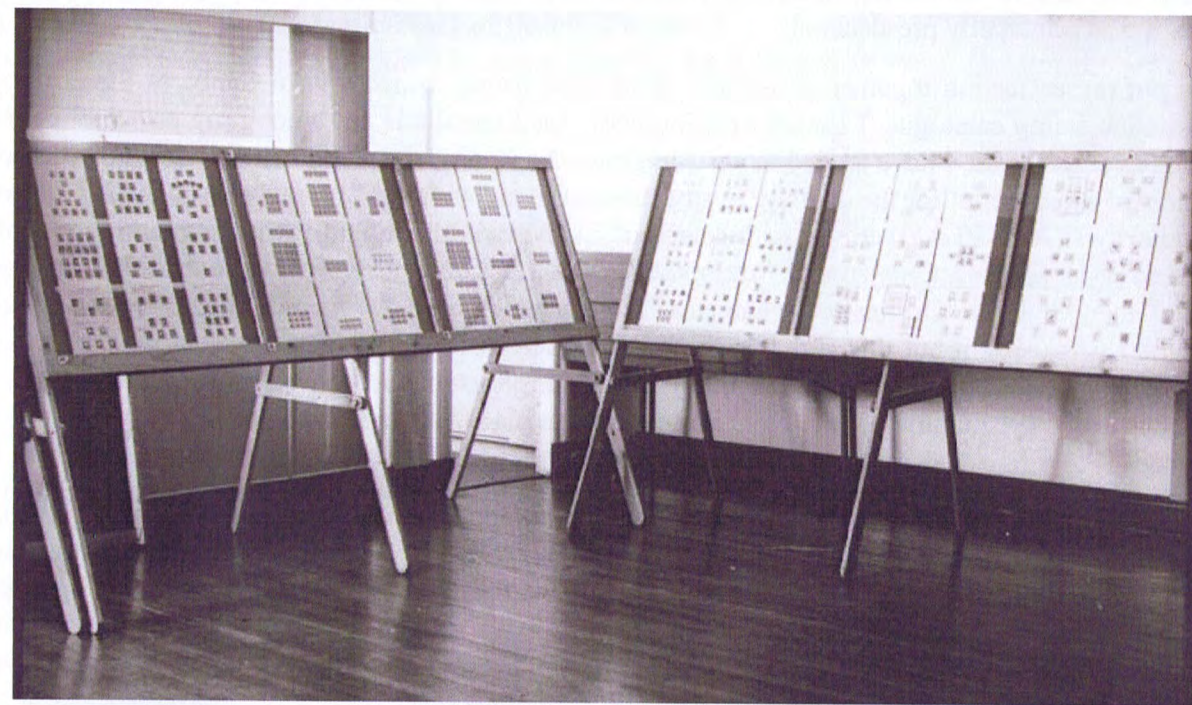
In October 1956 a special meeting was held to set the Society on a more secure footing with J W Shakespeare being elected President. This meeting succeeded in providing a sound basis for the Society's future with the Society meeting regularly ever since. The October 1956 meeting was held at the Phillips Building in Civic. The meeting decided that in future the Society's year would begin on 1<sup>st</sup> October. 19 members attended including Fiori Rinaldi and Bernard van der Meer. During 1957 meetings were held at the Manchester Unity Rooms before settling on the YWCA where meetings were held until the move to the Griffin Centre. (The 1959 Annual Report thanked the YWCA for the 'log fires'). The 1958 syllabus included Bill Shakespeare's Great Britain, Doug Ross's Great Britain, Cliff De Goede's German States, and Dr James' British Commonwealth, discussions on collecting and writing up, a display from PSNSW, and participation in the Annual Hobbies Exhibition in Albert Hall. Two exchange books were circulated in 1958.

## 1960s, 70s and 80s

In contrast to the first thirty years of the Society when the venue for meetings changed regularly, during the second thirty years the Society became more 'settled'. In 1966 the Society commenced holding meetings at the Griffin Centre and has continued to do so ever since establishing a clubroom at the Centre, first on the ground floor and from 1982 on the first floor. The Clubroom has enabled the Society to house and expand its library while the Griffin Centre became the focal point for the Society and its activities. The Society had created the post of Librarian in 1961 with the first holder of the post being Mr A Haldane. Other Librarians have included Frank Martin, Bill Baskerville, Steve Wilson, Ralph Lawton, Derek Brennan, Ian Faber and Ian McMahon.

The late 1960s and early 1970s were a period of consolidation for the Society. In 1966 the Society had almost seventy members and the annual subscription was one pound for adults and five shillings for juniors becoming

\$2 and 50c respectively on the change to decimal currency. This remained unchanged until the inflation prone days of the late 1970s when it rose to \$5 for adults and \$2 for juniors. Many of the members at the time are still with us including Paul Magi and Bernard van der Meer. The pattern of formal meetings of the Society was very similar to that of the present. Among the well known visitors to give displays at these meetings were Colonel F Thompson (Cook Islands), Peter Jaffe (St Vincent), H Chisholm (Historic Air Mails) and J Gartner (Western Australia). In 1969 the Society experimented with holding an informal meeting in addition to the display nights.



These meetings proved a success and have continued ever since. Over the years other types of meetings have been introduced including discussion nights, auction nights and afternoon meetings.

Ron Hyeronimus took over as President of the Society in 1958 for two years, returning for a second term in 1962 with Laurie Higginson serving as President over the period 1960-62. Ron had a very distinguished philatelic career being a leading expert on Australian Postage Dues and a life member of the Society. His research into Australian postage dues culminated in the publication of his book 'The Postage Due Stamps 1902-1963'. Under his leadership the Society held its first exhibition in 1963 at the Albert Hall which is described in Alan Salisbury's article in the Exhibition Catalogue of the 7th National Philatelic Convention. Alan Salisbury will be remembered by many current members of the Society. He had a very distinguished philatelic career and became known to all Australian collectors through his columns in 'Stamp News'. Alan has served the Society in many positions since 1959 including President (1964-66, 1967-69, 1971-73) and Treasurer (1974-81), is a life member of the Society and a Member of the Australian Philatelic Order. Cliff de Goede was President in 1966-67. He was well known for his collections of the Netherlands and colonies and Queensland. Aubrey Simmons was President over the period 1969 to 1971. In his obituary in Capital Philately it was noted that 'He was an expert Philatelist of the old school, with a knowledge of every aspect of the hobby which was quite phenomenal'. His collecting interests included British postal history.

Since 1973 the Society has had many presidents each of whom has served about two years as the Society had an unwritten convention limiting the terms of presidents to that period. The Presidents since 1973 would be well known to most members of the Society: Derek Brennan, Steve Wilson, Brian Darke, Ed Druce, Elspeth Bodley, Dingle Smith, Paul Barsdell, Peter Wood, Judy Kennett, Ian McMahon, Richard Gurevitch, Albert Farrugia, Robert Gregson, Paul Barsdell and Darryl Fuller. Steve Wilson was particularly noted for his interest in thematic collecting and his comprehensive collection of bird stamps while Brian Darke was a keen postal stationery collector and author of a catalogue of Australian postal stationery. *(To be concluded next issue)*