

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COIN & STAMP CLUB FOR 25th MARCH 2025

#269

2025 is our Club's 60th Year



Rob. Willis with customers at our 2025 Coin & Stamp Expo on Saturday 15th March

Our new web-site is <https://orangecoinsandstamps.org/>

THIS NEXT ORANGE COIN & STAMP MONTHLY MEETING IS ON THIS TUESDAY 25th February 2025 at 7.30.

Our current monthly meeting is at the Orange Cultural Centre at 7.30 on this **Tuesday night, 7.30pm 25th March 2025.**

The next night meeting after that is on Tuesday 29th April 2025

Our next monthly coin & stamp mini-fair is in the Orange Cultural Centre is on Saturday 5th April 2025 from 9 to 'middayish'.

Our meetings and the monthly fair are held in the Orange Cultural Centre building Sale St, Orange. It's the building that used to be a school. It's on the right hand side as you enter the Woolworths Car Park. The building is sort of opposite Harris Farm Market, but entrance is from the mini-park on the Sale St frontage.



OUR ORANGE COIN & STAMP EXPO ON 15th & 16th MARCH 2025

Our members were reportedly happy with the Club's 2-day 2025 Orange Coin & Stamp Expo. They spoke in terms of attendance and the quality of our displays.

Unlike last year not every visitor was asked how they found about the Show. However, of those asked, about 40% said they saw it on Facebook. Another 40% saw the ad on Prime TV.

The Saturday morning was very busy. Saturday afternoon was quieter, as was Sunday. The Show closed at 2pm so out-of-town dealers could return home.

There are no details to hand of what the dealers thought of the Show.

It was the weekend before the big stamp 4-day show at Wentworth Park in Sydney (20th to 23rd March). Most members and visitors who came to our show said they probably wouldn't be going to Sydney.

M.R. Roberts' Wynyard Coins had previously said that couldn't attend, because they couldn't get accommodation in Orange. It's possible the big show in Sydney, days later, may have been an additional factor.

Instead we got the affable Les Robinson from Top End Coins selling for the first time. Les could only be there on the Saturday, because of his commitment to the mini-fair in Newcastle. Next time he said, he will be here for the 2-days.

Howard Lyons (our treasurer) of Orange Stamps & Coins was there, along with Club dealers Tony Read and Rob. Willis.

On the stamp side, Win & Phil Morehouse were there (thankfully).

Peter Neville, a Club member, had an exciting range of much-increased stock of Australian and Commonwealth stamps.

RAFFLE

The hamper raffle was won by a non-member, living out-of-town. Thankfully he was in town when the secretary rang on the Sunday afternoon and the prize was collected straight away. The second prize winner was a regular visitor to our shows and lived in East Orange. He won 2nd prize at last November's Spring Fair.

COMPETITIVE DISPLAYS

A lot of our visitors congratulated the Club on the members' displays. The three rows of trestle table in the middle of the Hall were full.

The full list of members' displays is on page 7.

There were three competitive sections:-

- The *Andy Auld Perpetual Shield* for the "most popular display" was won by Col. Davidson for his display *Money of the Samurai*



Col Davidson with his small, but winning display of Money of the Samurai

- The *MR Roberts Perpetual Shield* for the best numismatic display, *Coinage of Parthis*, by Tony Read

[Parthian (247 BC to 224 SD) coins were mainly made of silver and Tony's assembly of over 100 coins was "jaw-dropping".]



• The *Col & Eileen Davidson Shield* for best philatelic display was won by Tony Read for his display *Stamp Forgeries of the Australian Colonies*.

THANKS

Huge hanks to Club members who:-

- Helped move Club trestle tables on the Friday evening and Sunday afternoon
- Helped on the front desk
- Donated hamper prizes
- Provided displays

Thanks also to Col. Davidson who took photos of the Show (including the ones in this newsletter).

Thanks to Michael Brough for his donation of a silver coin and *Australian Stamp Yearbook for 1988*, to add to the food and wine hamper raffle prize.

Brickbats to those members who never came.

OUR ORANGE 2025 COIN & STAMP EXPO DEALERS - PLEASE KEEP SUPPORTING THEM

- **Orange Stamps & Coins** (Howard Lyons), PO Box 9288, Orange, 2800; Mobile 0427 107 554 Phone/fax (02) 6362 2368, E-mail: - howard.lyons@bigpond.com
Buying and Selling – Stamps, Coins, Banknotes, Accessories, etc.

- **Phil & Win Morehouse**, Bankstown. NSW 2200 Ph: (02)9707 4087, Email – wmorehouse@netspace.net.au. World-wide stamps bought and sold
- **Top End Coins:** Les Robinson, P.O.Box 381, Nelson Bay. 2315 Phone: 0455 660 email: topendcoins@gmail.com
- **Peter Neville Stamps.** Orange. Phone 0400754209 peternevillestamps@gmail.com or www.ebay.com/str/stamporange nse
- Club dealers Tony Read, Peter Neville, Howard Lyons and Rob Willis can be found at our monthly mini-fairs in the Orange Cultural Centre on the 1st Saturday of each month

DATES FOR 2025

Easter this year is from 18th to 21st April

Orange Coin & Stamp Club 25th March 2025 night meeting, 7.30pm at the Orange Cultural Centre.

Gladstone & District Philatelic Society's Annual Stamp Fair, Saturday 29th March 9-4 & Sunday 30th March 9-3. At the Yaralla Sports Centre, Cnr O'Connell & Bell Streets, Gladstone, Qld.

Petersham Stamp, Coin & Banknote Fair, Sunday 30th March 2025, Petersham Town Hall, 107 Crystal Street, Petersham,

Orange Coin & Stamp Club mini-fair,
Saturday morning 5th April 2025, 9-12, at
the Orange Cultural Centre.

Campbelltown & District Philatelic Society
meeting, 9th April, 7pm at St Thomas More
Church Hall, 43 Acacia Ave., Ruse 2560.
Display Norfolk Island by Jim Feltham

Milton-Ulladulla Stamp & Coin Fair,
Saturday 12th April 2025, 9-3, at Ulladulla
Anglican Church, 275 Green Street, Ulladulla
Enquiries Rolf Zerbes (President) Phone:
0408 157 950 [redacted]
Email: rpzerbes@hotmail.com

Richmond Stamp Club hosts **Stamp &
Coin Fair** (plus crystals, gems and fused
glass), East Kurrajong School of Arts, 1090
East Kurrajong Road, Est Kurrajong Sat. 26th
April 9-14 & Sunday 27th April 9-2,

**Orange Coin & Stamp Club 29th April
2025 night meeting,** 7.30pm at the Orange
Cultural Centre.

Orange Coin & Stamp Club mini-fair,
Saturday morning 3rd May 2025, 9-12, at
the Orange Cultural Centre.

Campbelltown & District Philatelic Society
meeting 14th May, 7pm at St Thomas More
Church Hall, 43 Acacia Ave., Ruse
2560. History of Stamps display by Patrick
Gunning.

Parramatta Philatelic Society Open Day,
10th May 2025, 10-4, O.E.S. Hall, Railway St,
Wentworthville, [sale-by-tender at 1pm &
3pm]

Wagga Club's 2-day Stamp & Coin Fair,
17th & 18th May 2025, from 9am, at Sturt
Public School, White Avenue, Koorringal,
2650

Queensland Philatelic Council Bazaar Day,
Sunday 25th May 2025 at QPC House, 18
Coolcrest Street, Wynnum, Qld

Rockhampton Stamp Fair, 1-4, Saturday 21st
June 2025 at Fred Fox Hall, Gladstone Road,
Rockhampton Qld

Bendigo Philatelic Society's Stamp Fair,
30th August 2025, 9.30 to 2.30. St Andrew
Uniting Church, 24 Myers St Bendigo,
Victoria

**Wagga Stamp & Coin Club's Stamp and
Coin Fair,** 22nd and 23rd November 2025,
starts at 9am, Sturt Public School, White
Avenue, Koorringal [a Wagga suburb] 2650

TURN YOUR STAMPS INTO CASH! GET SOME PAGES READY FOR THE CLUB'S EXCHANGE BOOK

Colin needs coin and stamp pages for the next
stamp circuit book and the next coin/note circuit
books

Colin can be contacted direct at Email:
ptilinopus1@bigpond.com Ph: 63690634

ITEMS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER AND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CLUB

Items for this newsletter are always required. You
do not have to be a member of the Orange Club.
They need to be posted to the Editor, Derek
Dolstra, who is also the secretary at the Club's
postal address: -PO Box 9113, ORANGE 2800 or
better still e-mailed in Word format (pictures as
jpg files) to: - ddolstra@bigpond.net.au or **Phone
02 63 614 872**

EAST KURRAJONG STAMP AND COIN FAIR

Sponsored by the Richmond Stamp Club
Plus Crystals, Gems, Fused Glass

East Kurrajong School of Arts 1090 East Kurrajong Rd, East Kurrajong

26 & 27 APRIL 2025

Sat. 9am-4pm and Sun. 9am-2pm

Stamps, Covers, Coins, Cinderellas, Commercial Mail, Ephemera, Postmarks, Thematics, Accessories.

Fused Glassware, Crystals, Handmade Jewellery & Market Stalls.

Contacts: Ann 02 4576 5031
Helen 02 4578 8911
available Hosted by Richmond Stamp Club
parking

FREE Admission
Refreshments
Free off street

www.eastkurrajonghall.com

MILTON-ULLADULLA STAMP CLUB Fair

Saturday 12th April 2025.

9.30am to 3.00pm

Ulladulla Anglican Church

275 Green St, Ulladulla, Corner of Princes Highway

Enquiries Rolf Zerbes (President) Phone: 0408 157 950

Email: rpzerbes@hotmail.com

Milton-Ulladulla members would like to extend a warm invitation to you to participate and provide access to your dealership. Please advise if you wish to attend and if you need further information we will be pleased to help. Doors will open as usual at 7.30am when tables will be set up.

MILTON-ULLADULLA STAMP CLUB

PO Box 670,

Ulladulla,

NSW 2539.

Chris Lambert, secretary

clambert@wetnet.com.au

2025 ORANGE STAMP & COIN EXPO – LIST OF DISPLAYS

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|--|--------------------------|
| A. | Tony Read | <i>Coinage of Parthis</i> | coin case |
| B. | Eileen Davidson | <i>Ancient Egyptian Artefacts</i> | coin case |
| C. | Col. Davidson | <i>Coins of the Bible</i> | coin case |
| D. | Derek Dolstra | <i>The Spanish Civil War</i> | 12-page stamp frame |
| E. | Col. Davidson | <i>Money of the Samurai</i> | small coin case |
| F. | Rob. Willis | <i>Beauty on Banknotes</i> | coin case |
| G. | Graham Doherty | <i>Elephants on Stamps</i> | 12-page stamp frame |
| H. | Michael Brough | <i>Silver in the Empire: The Victorian Half-Crown Legacy</i> | coin case |
| I. | Geoff Henry | <i>Beliefs of Mankind</i> | small frame |
| J. | Geoff Henry | <i>Phone Cards I</i> | small frame |
| K. | Geoff Henry | <i>South African Money</i> | small coin case |
| L. | Geoff Henry | <i>Phone Cards II</i> | 12-Page stamp frame |
| M. | Derek Dolstra | <i>China: Some Stamps of the Cultural Revolution</i> | 2 x 12-page stamp frames |
| N. | Derek Dolstra | <i>Untitled [NSW postmarks]</i> | 9-page stamp frame |
| O. | Tony Read | <i>The Puffin Stamps of Lundy</i> | 12-page stamp frame |
| P. | Tony Read | <i>Stamp Forgeries of the Australian Colonies</i> | 12-page stamp frame |
| Q. | Tony Read | <i>Tony's Weeds [International Stamp Forgeries]</i> | 12-page stamp frame |



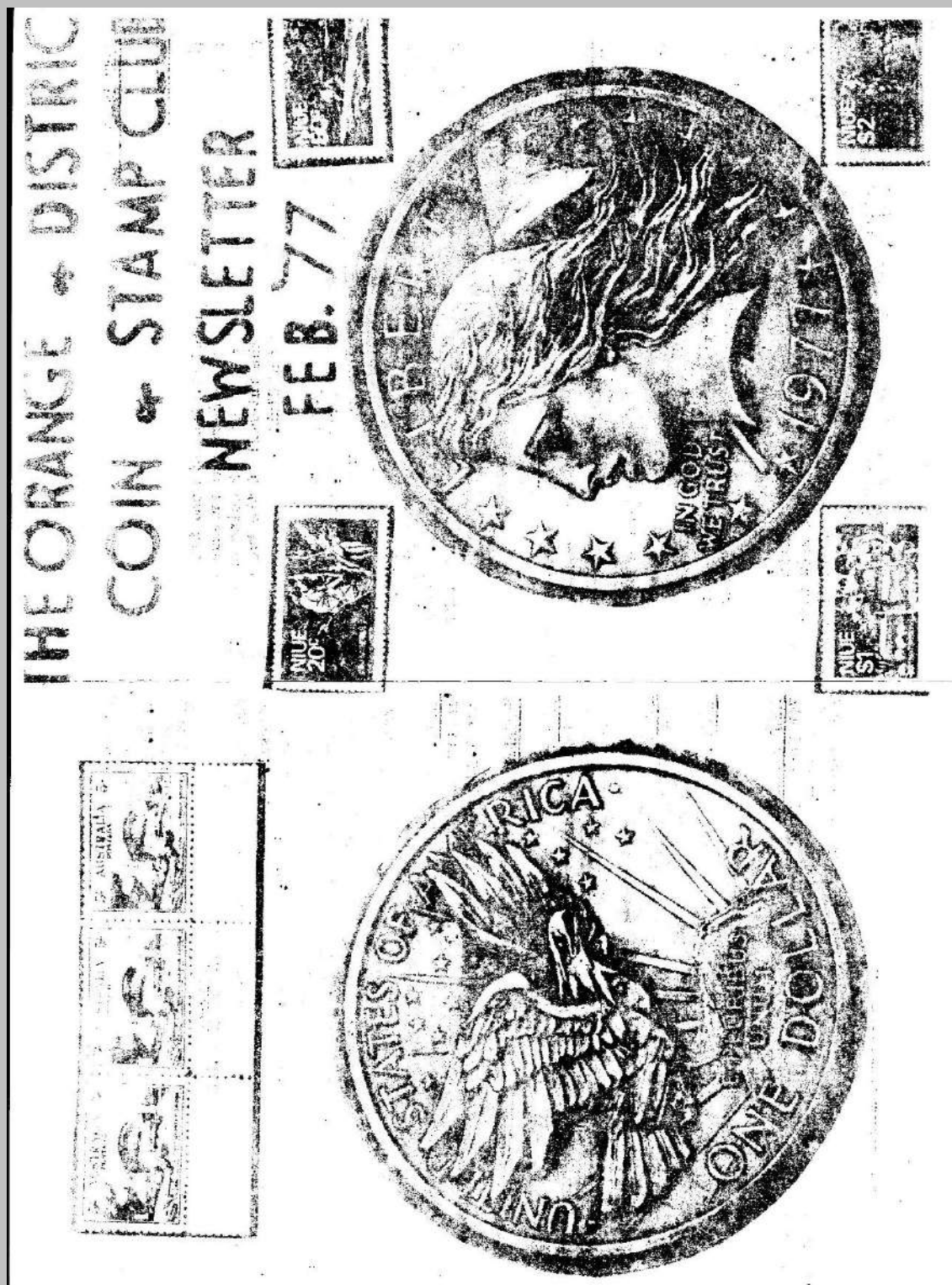
Win and Phil. Morehouse with stamp customers at Expo on the Saturday, 16th March



Club members at the end of Expo in their club 60th Anniversary shirts: - L to R. Steve Kay, Peter Neville, Graham Doherty, Glenn Deveigne, Tony Read, Eileen Davidson, Col. Davidson, Colin Richardson, Rob. Willis, Kevin Capnerhurst, Derek Dolstra and Dave Field.

OUR CLUB'S FIRST NEWSLETTER IN 1977

Col and Eileen Davidson passed their copy of our very first Newsletter from 1977. The late Jack Fitzsimon was editor and Eileen did the typing. Of only 2 pages, it was produced on a very primitive photocopier. In 1977 the Club was only 12 years old. This year we celebrate our 60th Anniversary



NEWSLETTER NO. 1Editorial

This newsletter has been produced for the Coin and Stamp Club to see if it can be of interest to members and friends to encourage member to swap, display or just talk coins or stamps. One of its aims is to increase the interest in the two hobbies and help increase membership in the Club.

At this stage it is proposed to produce possibly 4 or 6 newsletters each year, but if it is warranted, more newsletters will be issued. It is intended that the newsletter contains informative and factual information of interest to members, articles on both coins and stamps, supplied, hopefully, by members. There will also be a page set aside for members and friends to advertise material for sale, swap etc. Let's see what the members reaction to this newsletter is and take it from there.

EditorClub Activities

A Club visit and auction is scheduled for February, 1977.

The Club has planned a display in March, 1977 for the Festival of Arts, Monthly displays by members, and that's about it. How about members putting their thinking caps on and seeing if we can come up with some really bright ideas for the future. Here are a few ideas for thought:

1. regular Club Stamp and Coin "Sale by Tender" nights,
2. a good display and auction on a large scale, inviting some important V.I.P. to open and officiate at the show with a registered auctioneer for the auction. General public also invited to submit material for auction. This may take a good 12 to 18 months to organise but if done properly, with the correct handling, this could help the Club financially

and membership wise in the future.

3. a childrens night, inviting interesting persons to give di etc. 4. I would like to see small lucky door prizes introduced each meeting. There must be many more ideas which the Club can investigate in order to keep the interest in the Club.

A few notes of interest. The P.O. has now gone into the stamp business!! A new release of 36 colour photographs prestamped rush them, not at \$10.60 per pack, anyway. Plenty for everyone. It is proposed to produce a new 50c Australian coin in March, to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. It will possibly be released during her Australian visit.

WANTED: People to advertise material for sale, swap, exchange in these newsletters. Reasonable charges.

WANTED: New members join in the fun of collecting coins, stamps, primitive money, paper money. Club meets last Tuesday of every month 7.30 p.m., Orange Technical College. ALL WELCOME.

FOR SALE: Covers, stamps, coins etc.

WANTED: Material for Club "Sale by Tender" planned for February Meeting. All items of interest acceptable, including coins, medals, stamps, covers, catalogues etc. See what you can dig for the next meeting.

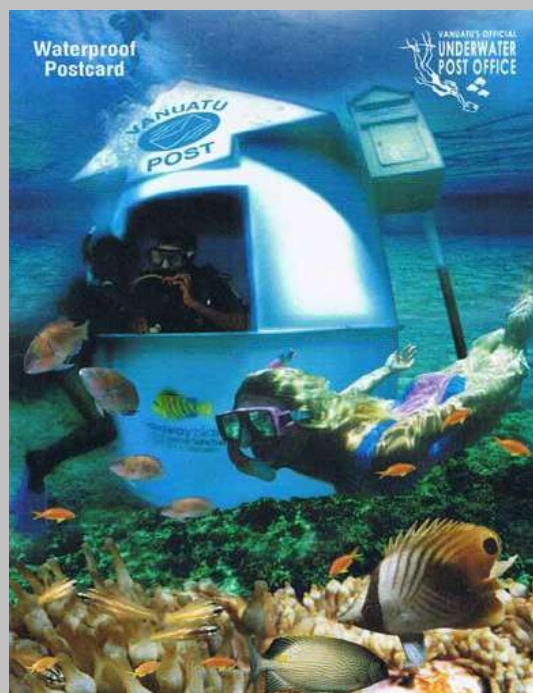
WANTED: Members require good material, stamps coins etc. swap purchase, trade.

WANTED: Ideas for Club activities, socials etc.

STAMP BONNAZA: Amoco Hall, 10.00 am to 4.00 p.m. Sunday, 20th February, 1977. Stamps, Fdc's on sale, good selection choose from. Dealers also interested in buying good material Club support required.

VANUATU'S UNDERWATER POST OFFICE

At the January 2025 Club meeting, Genise Flynn showed a waterproof postcard that she had posted to herself from the Vanuatu's unique underwater post office. Genise visited Vanuatu with her daughter and sister in the week before the big March 2023 earthquake - when they were trying to recover from Covid. The earthquake proved a difficult time in Vanuatu as they had no elected government in that period. The problem of recovery from the earthquake made much more difficult.



The happy tourists were surprised to find the underwater post office on Hideaway Island. It required a waterproof postcard, which could be purchased on "dry land". It didn't need a stamp. Worse still, you had to snorkel down 2m to post it in the underwater receptacle. Genise had trouble with her face-mask, which worked okay just under the surface, but not so well 2 metres down.



Opening hours are posted on the beach at Hideaway Island, and a special flag is raised on a float above the site when there are postal workers in the water. Vanuatu Post Office staff have completed their Open Water dive training at Hideaway Island.



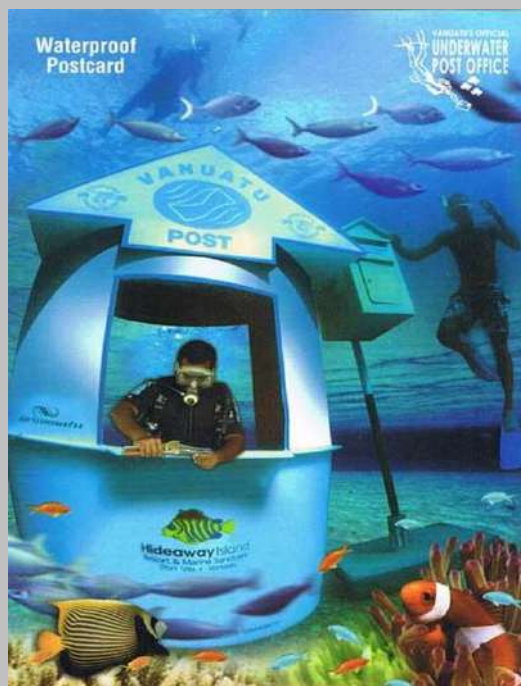
The postcards are waterproof have to fill out the address side in pencil. The address side "postmark" on the card shows no date: -



Out of hours the post cards can be posted in the underwater post box attached to the post office or taken to the main post office in town. All are guaranteed to receive the special cancellation from this unique underwater paradise before being delivered both locally and internationally.



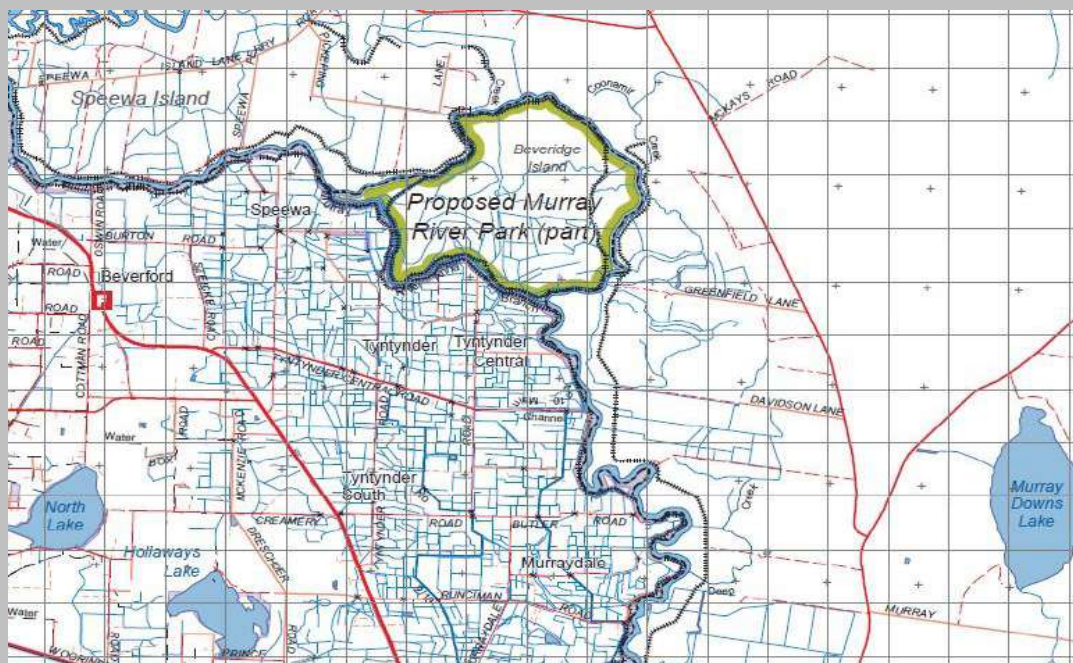
Recovering the mail-bag. Thankfully the postcards were waterproof



Vanuatu issued a mini-sheet on 11th December 2013 to mark 10 years of the underwater post office. It was printed by Southern Colour in Dunedin NZ.

SPEEWA NSW & VIC 2375

Speewa is a rural locality on both sides of the Murray River, 12km east of Koraleigh and about 19km north of Swan Hill in Victoria



It is unusual in that the name is shared between contiguous localities in New South Wales and Victoria.

On the New South Wales side of the border, Speewa is a large-in-area, all-rural locality with no village centre. The land is used for non-irrigated cereal crops, especially wheat. On the Victorian side of the border, there is a small hamlet with a public hall. The land is all irrigated and closely-settled.



*The Speewa Hall, like the post office, was actually in Victoria.
The author has not been able to locate a picture of the former post office.*



This Speewa property is on the New South Wales side of the Murray. The Murray River, including the south bank is all in New South Wales



A feature of Speewa, that attracts tourists, is the Speewa Ferry, a cable ferry which has connected the two Speewa's since 1908. It is the only crossing of the Murray River between Swan Hill and Nyah.

The **Speewa Post Office** opened as a Receiving Office on 2nd August 1924 on the Victorian side of the border. It was upgraded to Non-Official Post Office on 1st July 1927.

Because mail was delivered from New South Wales, in 1964 it was named as a New South Wales office, even though it was physically in Victoria. Postcode or 2375 allocated in 1967. The Speewa Non-Official Post Office was closed on 30th October 1973.

Soon after the post office closure, mail on the south side of the river was delivered from Swan Hill and the Victoria part was given a postcode of 3585. The New South Wales-side-of-the border mail was delivered by rural roadside contractor from nearby Koraleigh.

SPEEWA NSW & VIC 2375

SPEEWA TYPE 3E(i) DATE-STAMP

Hopson & Tobin (1998) have recorded the use of a Type 3E(i) date-stamp at Speewa for only 1967. The Speewa Post Office was actually in the Victorian portion of the locality.



An impression of the Type 3E(i), 30½mm-diameter (arcs 9½mm, 10½mm, "SPEEWAH / 3 OC69 / NSW-AUST" [SDL] date-stamp cancels a 5c deep-blue *Queen Elizabeth* stamp of 29 September 1969, on piece.

MERINO SHEEP ON STAMPS AND COINS

I. THE SHEEP-ON-STAMPS STORY REALLY BEGINS WITH JOHN MACARTHUR'S FLOCK

Captain Henry Waterhouse and Lieutenant William Kent brought the first flock of 26 merinos from the Cape of Good Hope to Port Jackson in 1797. The sheep came from a flock originally given to Prince William of Orange in the Netherlands by King Carlos III of Spain.

The Spanish variety was well suited to the Australian environment and was an excellent producer of fine wool. By the late 1800s wool had become Australia's major export.

One important pioneer of the early merino wool was John Macarthur and is recognised as the pioneer of the Australian Merino wool industry. John was a friend of Captain Waterhouse and received four Merino ewes and two rams from the Spanish flock.

Macarthur later took up a 5,000 acre grant to establish his Merino wool breeding and industry. Macarthur obtained the Cowpastures grant and named it 'Camden Park', in honour of his patron.



A merino ram is featured on the 2d carmine (light and dark hills versions), 3d blue and 9d purple stamps of 1st November 1934 to commemorate the *Centenary of the Death of John Macarthur*. The stamp set was designed & engraved by Frank Manley of the Note Printing Branch in Melbourne.

The press release of November 1934 states that the engraved design was made from a composite of a number of photographs. The hills background was described “as viewed from Gloucester Flats sheep run in the Blue Mountains”. The merino ram apparently wasn’t taken from a single photo, but from several photos of different rams. These are likely to have included the champion ram from Uardry that won the 37th Annual Sydney Sheep Show in 1932. Uardry, is “dead flat”, all saltbush and flat plains, so the “hills” don’t match.



The Gloucester Flats sheep run was, seemingly, not in the Blue Mountains, but near Gloucester in the Hunter Region (see image, above). It was part of the enormous Australia Agricultural Company’s land grant of 1824. It was subdivided and sold off into smaller holdings in 1903.

The same artwork was used as the basis for the design for the reddish-mauve 5d value (letter rate + registered mail rate & perf 14 x 13½) issued on 1st December 1938 as part of the *Zoological* series: -



The 1938 stamp was re-printed on 17th December 1945, instead as perf 14 x 14½.



The 1938 stamp was overprinted and re-issued on 10th December 1941 with a Wartime surcharge at 5½d.

Another merino sheep stamp worth mentioning is the 7th August 1997-ssued, 45c stamp for the *Bicentenary of the Introduction of Merino Sheep in to Australia*



It shows an image of a merino ram and a portrait of George Peppin.

George Peppin (1800-1876) was the son of George Peppin, sheep breeder, who acquired some of George III's flock, and his wife Maria née Hall. In 1850 when farming was at a low ebb in England he sailed for Port Phillip. He had two sons: - George (1827-1876) and Frederick (1828-1911). By mid-1851 they were settled near Mansfield, Victoria and after years of fluctuating fortune sold out when scab and fluke destroyed their flock.

In March 1858 Peppin & Sons bought South Wanganella station in the Riverina and its 8000 sheep for £10,000. They used the run for fattening sheep for the Melbourne market.

In 1861 the Peppins, beaten by Riverina conditions, offered Wanganella for sale at Scott's Hotel in Melbourne but found no buyer. They decided to try again and

continue their earlier attempts to breed a type of merino suitable to the area, a larger, more robust, stronger-woolled sheep and with a bulky back to stand up to summer dust and heat. In 1864 Peppin & Sons exhibited six pens of sheep at the first Echuca Agricultural Show and were awarded four first prizes and one second.



The Peppin Memorial at Wanganella. Wanganella is a hamlet on the remote highway between Deniliquin and Hay.

The Peppin Merino was soon became the prevalent type of sheep bred for wool in the sheep flocks of Queensland, on the slopes and plains of New South Wales, through the north of Victoria and the mixed farming areas of South Australia and Western Australia.

II. THE MERINO ON THE ONE SHILLING COIN CAME FROM UARDRY STATION, NEAR HAY – “THE CHAMPION ON THE BOB”

Uardry Station on the Murrumbidgee River, 40km east of Hay, ran both sheep and cattle and the owners thought nothing of a newly-born merino lamb that would become one of the best-known Merino rams in our nation’s history.



Uardry didn’t have a post office, but it did have its own railway station on the Narrandera to Hay line.

It is remembered as the home of the champion merino ram *Uardry 0.1* which featured on the 1 shilling coin from 1938 to 1965.

Uardry station was established in 1840 on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River.

In 1875, the property was acquired by Charles Mills, Andrew Neilson and William Smith. At the time the property had an area of 28,328 ha. Shortly afterwards Mills was fortunate enough to acquire a small flock of pure *Peppin Merinos*, which he carefully bred to avoid outside blood to produce an excellent merino flock with "a bold combing wool of medium to strong quality". By the 1880s Mills was exhibiting at the Hay agricultural show, in which they won 104 champions and 60 second prizes. As his partners died Mills acquired their shares of the enterprise and eventually was the sole owner of Uardry.

By 1900 Mills passed on the running of the property to his oldest son, Ainslie, and later his third son, Nelson, took control. In 1937 the property was regarded as one of the most highly improved and best irrigated, with 38 ground tanks, 11 wells and 17 sub-artesian bores equipped with windmills and troughs to supply water to stock.



P.S. Ulonga at Uardry 1915. Even though Uardry had rail access since the 1880's to Sydney the transport of wool bales along the river was cheaper

The merino lamb that ended up on the 1 shilling coin was born in 1929 and was given the designation “**Uardry 0.1**.” Neilson Mills was the keen breeder. The ram was brought to the 37th Annual Sydney Sheep Show in 1932 when times were tough with the depression. The event ran from the 23rd to 25th June, 1932, and the ram was entered by Charles Mills of Uardry Pty Ltd, under the Uardry Merino Stud at Hay. Despite the difficult times there were some 366 other Merino sheep exhibited though some had been railed to Sydney as the owners could not afford to come themselves. *Uardry 0.1* hadn't even had his third birthday



Uardry 0.1

The young ram won his class before going on to be judged the champion strong wool ram and finely the Grand Champion. Newspaper reporters were soon wanting interviews with the owners of the Uardry Merino Stud.

The *Sydney Mail* of Wednesday 29th June 1932 reported: - “In 1932 at the Sydney Sheep Show a Merino ram from Uardry, Hay, was judged the grand champion of the premier event of its kind in the world. Uardry 0.1 was considered by all who viewed him as the most beautiful sheep seen up until that time. Various descriptions as having “all the characteristics of greatness in his splendidly-modelled body, his strong head and horns, and his beautiful, soft, richly-crimped fleece”, the pristine promise of scientific expectation was recognised in his vernacular balance.”

Charles Mills must have been thrilled. After returning home to Hay with the winning ram Andrew Agnew Neilson Mills and Charles Mills were contacted by letter by Tom Atkinson, a noted Western Australian sheep-classer. Atkinson complemented the men stating it was “The most magnificent ram he had ever seen.” He suggested that he should be called “Hallmark.”

Some six years later the Royal Australian Mint was looking for a Merino Sheep to model for a coin and the famous Merino *Uardry 0.1* was suggested. Thus his effigy was eternalised on the reverse of the new Australian one shilling coin from 1938.

For those born this Century it should be mentioned that a shilling (that we usually called a one ‘bob’) was equal to 1/20th of a pound, or 12 pence (now 10c). The design was utilised until Australia changed over to decimal currency in 1966.



A 1944 Uardry 0.1 Merino ram-design Australian shilling coin. .

The first Australian shillings obverse featured a design incorporating the Australian Coat of Arms from 1910 to 1936.

The Merino Ram design for the shilling reverse was the second design for the shilling series. It was designed by British artist George Kruger Gray, mostly known for his designs of stained-glass cathedral windows. He incorporated his initials 'KG' into his design. The obverse of the shilling had a bust of *King George VI* which was designed by Thomas Hugh Paget.



George Kruger Gray (1880-1943) also designed coins for Canada, New Zealand, New Guinea, Great Britain, Cyprus, Mauritius, Jersey, South Africa & Southern Rhodesia

Initially the silver mixture used to mint the shillings was composed of 92.5% silver and 7.5% copper. However, after the Second World War, the amount of silver was reduced.

The Australian Merino Ram designed shillings were minted both in Australia and the United States. The Australian mints underwent silver shortages during the Second World War, so they contacted the American authorities. They said that they could strike the necessary coinage and pay back the silver after the war. Shillings and florins were produced at the San Francisco Mint, while

threepences and sixpences were struck at both the San Francisco and Denver Mint. These coins that were struck in the US mints exhibit mintmarks, 'S' and 'D' respectively.

Stephen Burns, an ex-Jackaroo was interviewed on ABC radio in March 2014. He spent time on merino studs around Hay. In 1975 at a barbeque at Burrabogie Station he spoke to Sarah and Debbie Mills, descendants of Charles Mills. The dining room was flanked by large numbers of photographs of prize-winning merino rams bred by Neilson Mills. In the corner was a photograph of a ram's head. Burns thought it was a photograph of the ram on the one shilling coin...and it was.

He enquired why artist George Kruger Gray was so interested in the grand champion Merino ram from the Uardry stud near Hay for his shilling design.

The answer was "His head was an archetypal Merino head" and there was "the easy curve of his horn, his soft face, the kind eye.", and "He's a pretty looking sheep for a ram and they don't all look like that".



This ram, *Uardry 0.1*, was also depicted on the 50-cent coin of 1991 commemorating the *25th Anniversary of Decimal Currency*, 53 years after its first showing.



An idealised graphic of a merino ram, possibly taken from the 1934 issue graphic (and the later 5d and 5½d merino stamps), was a feature on the \$2 green

Decimal banknote of 1966. John Macarthur was shown too. The \$2 banknote was replaced by a coin in 1988.



Merino sheep also raided their heads amongst cows and agricultural produce on the back of the old £5 notes.

References *Bathurst Lapidary & Collectables Club Newsletter* #239 Jan-Feb 2023, Alan MacRae
The *Riverine Grazier* of September 29, 2021
Newspapers on Trove.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST BANKNOTE FROM BURUNDI

At our February 2025 meeting Rob. Willis spoke about the newly-issued 10,000 franc issued by the Banque de la République du Burundi. It is the World's largest banknote at 400mm x 288mm. The print run is only 1,000. It is legal tender in Burundi.

It will be available this month from Wynyard Coins. They have it advertised at the pre-order price of \$3,650.



Interestingly, the 1 Burundian franc converts to 0.00054 Australian dollars, or 10,000 Burundian francs converts to A\$5.40. The value of the banknote, then, seemingly, is in its collector interest and relative rarity.

Burundi is located in East Africa, between Rwanda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is a landlocked country, but borders Lake Tanganyika, the second largest lake in Africa. The most famous geographical feature is situated just 50 km (31 mi) east of the lake in the south of Burundi. The Ruvyironza River rises at Mont Gikizi in Bururi Province. It is the southernmost source river of the Nile.

Promotional material for this big banknote states: - “In keeping with the banknote's unusual format, the main motif on the obverse of the banknote is dedicated to African megafauna. The reverse focuses on Burundi and shows the State House, the national flag, the national coat of arms, a map of the country with the source of the Nile, as well as dancers and drummers. Traditional patterns and the design of the national flag were incorporated into the creation process and then combined with state-of-the-art security features. Due to their size alone, the banknote offers a wealth of interesting details, some of which are not visible to the naked eye.”

Security features include additional motifs that are only visible under ultra-violet light. For example, the Burundi long-fingered frog (*Cardioglossa cyaneospila*) appears on the obverse. Found only in the western arm of the East African Rift, this rare species was thought to be extinct since its discovery in 1949. More recent sightings were only reported in 2011. The frog owes its name to the unusually long third finger in male specimens. The reverse of the banknote features a lion, Burundi's national animal, and the national flag in its original colours when viewed under UV light.



EARLY STAMPS AND COINS FROM ARGENTINA

CORRIENTOS

Tony Read related to the February 2025 Club meeting that he had been looking through an old stamp album and had found stamps from Corrientos. He discovered that it was a province of Argentina. It is 1,000km from Buenos Aires. The capital of the province is the city of Corrientos.

Corrientos issued its own postage stamps from 1856 to 1876. The stamps were printed by typography and were very crude copies of the stamps of France. They too depicted the Roman goddess of agriculture, *Ceres*.



The first Corrientos stamp of 1856 showed the 1 Real denomination in the lower panel:-



Corrientos stamp of 1856. The denomination was marked out by pen when it was revalued at 3 Reales.



The design was a direct copy of the French Ceres stamps

In 1860 six more stamps were issued. There were two, three, and (briefly) 5 real stamps. The stamp value panel was removed and the stamps could only be identified by the colour of the paper.



Tony Read's collection of 1860 Corrientos stamps, above.

Forgeries of these primitive issues are common and difficult to distinguish because of the die variation. Tony Read commented that the stamps he showed could well be forgeries.

Louis Stich, an expert on Corrientos stamps, explained: -

In 1856 there was an extreme shortage of paper and coins under 8 Reales. At the same time the Corrientos Assmbly authorised stamps for pre-paid postal use. The State Printing Bureau decided to print stamps for postal use and for small change. They supposedly couldn't find anyone who coul cut the stamp dies.

At the time a butcher's boy, Matias Pipet, who had served as an apprentice engraver in Italy, said he could undertake the task. For some reason the French stamp of Ceres was selected for the design.

The dies were so crude that the State Printing Bureau were afraid to use them. They did so eventually as the need for stamps and small change had become urgent.





These stamps remained in use until 11th September 1880, after which the stamps of Argentina were used. These 'primitive' Corrientes stamps were then all devalued.

CORDOBA

The second-most populous province of Argentina was Cordoba. It's in the middle of Argentina. It had its own postage stamps from 1858 until 1862. They were used for postage in the province.



Image from CollectorsShop

Tony Read said that he couldn't find any stamps, but he remembered he had a coin from Cordoba:-



Cordoba Province silver 2 Reales coin of 1844. Cordoba Mint. x 2

BUENOS AIRES

Argentine history during the early 19th Century was marked by political upheaval and the struggle for independence from Spanish colonial rule. Buenos Aires played a critical role in these events. Tony Read said he had a very worn Buenos Aires one Decimo coin minted in 1822. This early minting reflected the country's effort to establish a stable monetary system during a period of transition and great change.

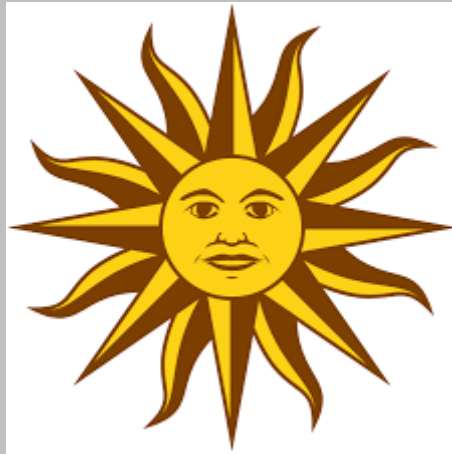


Buenos Aires one Decimo coin of 1822. Soho Mint, Birmingham

Tony Read made the point that one side of this Buenos Aires coin and the coin from Cordoba featured the blazing face of the sun. Many South & Central American coins and stamps featured this sun, called the *Sun of May*. It represented the Incan god of the sun.

[Tony's narration of the story of the *Sun of May* will be continued in the April Newsletter.]

The "Sun of May" (Spanish: Sol de Mayo) became the national symbol of Argentina and Uruguay, appearing on their flags, and represents the May Revolution of 1810, which led to Argentina's independence from Spanish rule.



[Tony Read's narration of the story of the *Sun of May* on coins and stamps of the Americas will be continued in the April Newsletter.]

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Our 2025 Coin & Stamp Expo Sat. 15th March. Rob Willis, Tony Read and Steve Kay serve seated customers from out-of-town. Howard Lyons is standing at his tables at the back. Derek Dolstra looks on.

