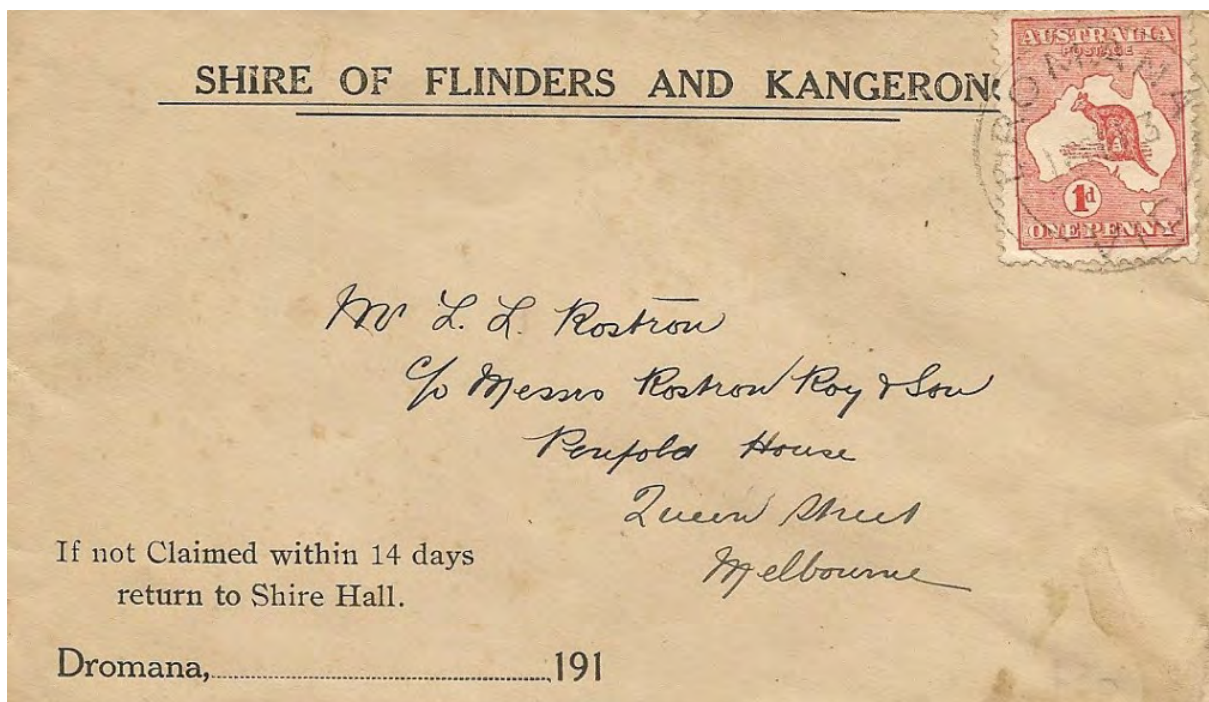


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IN THIS ISSUE

Front Cover: Kangerong

**Australian Colonies' Post Office Newspaper Wrappers:
Additional Data 2009-2011**

Airmail Rates Belgium to Australia 1934-1938

An Invitation

Caribbean Airmails 1927-46: Part 1

Hand-Held Date-Stamp Notes

Contents

Editorial	3
Front Cover <i>John Young</i>	4
Australian Colonies' Post Office Newspaper Wrappers: Additional Data 2009-2011 <i>John K Courtis</i>	5
Airmail Rates from Belgium to Australia 1934-1938 <i>Michael Barden</i>	14
An Invitation <i>Ian Cutter</i>	18
Caribbean Airmails 1927-46: Part 1 <i>John Young</i>	20
Responses to Queries	22
HHDS <i>Compiled by George Vearing</i>	26
Advertisement	30
Advertisement	31
Back Page	32



Editorial

Tony Lyon

A good range of articles again this issue thanks to our various contributors. It was encouraging, after we hit rock bottom at the conclusion of last issue, that there were so many responses. Keep up the good work. As one can see from items that Ian Cutter sends, all one needs is something to write about and create a story around it.

It was heartening to receive responses to some of the questions raised in the previous issue. Often the knowledge is out there, taking a little time to respond is all that it takes.

It is interesting to note that the next FIP World Stamp Exhibition, to be held in Melbourne Australia, is only thirteen months away. If you are planning an exhibit it is time to be seriously gathering together all that is needed to accomplish the task.

Just a reminder about the society meetings. We meet on alternative months with April being the next. It is an excellent forum for fellowship, sharing and learning from the various displays and members present. Why not insert it in your calendar and come along and join the regulars. We don't bore you with lots of business and there is always an excellent supper afterwards.

George Vearing is always appreciative of any Hand Held Datestamp examples that are sent to him for his column. His address is on page 2 of each journal. As we know, the instances of these postal markings are becoming harder to come by as postal operations change the methods of cancelling mail, or not in many instances.

This of course begs the question as to whether a stamp is used if there is no evidence of such? Something to ponder. For myself I prefer some sort of circular cancel on any used I collect. It becomes harder and harder to maintain that criteria.

Caio till next time.

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2. inform members about the Society's activities;
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Front Cover

John Young

The Shire of Flinders and Kangerong was proclaimed on Christmas Eve, 1874. Its area was 174 square miles, taking in the southern half of the Mornington Peninsula, from the shores of Port Phillip Bay to Western Port Bay. Flinders was the shire's most southerly town, from where a submarine Morse communication cable to Tasmania was laid in 1869. Kangerong was the shire's most northerly place. But where was Kangerong?

It is actually a very historic place and is now known as Safety Beach. In March 1836 a Tasmanian, John Aitken, landed sheep safely at Safety Beach's shallows and then drove them on to Sunbury. That was only seven months after Batman and Fawkner settled Melbourne.

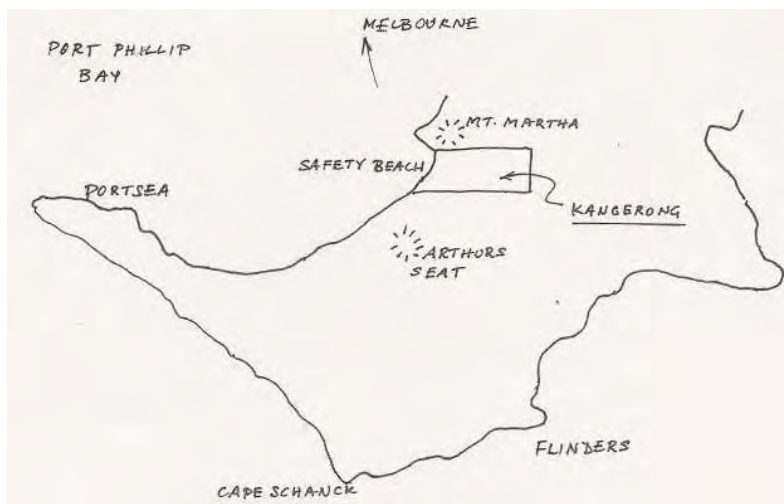
The place was thus known from early days, although it was not very fertile or good for grazing. Nevertheless, in 1840 a prominent settler, Hugh Jamieson, purchased a special survey of eight square miles at Safety Beach. Jamieson built his "Kangerong" homestead there and by the 1850s the area was known by that name. It is thought that Kangerong was an Aboriginal word for hail stones.

The east and north boundaries of the Kangerong special survey survive as postcode boundaries, a little known legacy.

Kangerong was part of the shire's name until 1914, and in Dromana there was the well known Kangerong guest house which operated until the 1950s. The owner of the shire envelope on this journal's cover, John Steward, remembers holidaying at the guesthouse.

Kangerong was also known as the Kangerong Basin, and was one of the peninsula's less appealing places. By the 1990s, however, it was ripe for a canal estate. The name Kangerong, has not been revived, although it survives, as a caravan park in Dromana. The canal estate goes by the name of Martha Cove (shades of Sanctuary Cove on the once mosquito-infested Hope Island in south-east Queensland?). The estate has been a bit hard to get going but another start was made in 2012 with "absolute waterfront" sites at around half a million dollars each. Hugh Jamieson would be astonished. He paid a pound an acre.

There's not much to say about Kangerong's postal history. Safety Beach had a post office from 1953 to 1974. It is doubtful that either it or Martha Cove will have a post office in the future, as Dromana is only three kilometres away. The Flinders and Kangerong Shire was headquartered at Dromana, from where the cover was posted.



Back Cover

Folded letter posted at Sunbury where it received a duplex dated AP 16 72. Addressed to Richmond in transit it received a Up TPO M.G.4., Melbourne circular and Richmond unframed.

