

# Australian Journal of Philately

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Meetings: The Australian Philatelic Society meets bimonthly on the third Monday of (February, April, June, August, October, December), at 7.45 pm at the RSL Canterbury Memorial Homes, 152 Canterbury Rd, Canterbury, Melway Ref: page 46 C 10/11. Visitors welcome.

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Date	2016 /17 Programme	Display
17 April 2017	John McKay	UN Peace Keeping Mail
19 June 2017	Michael Barden	Skymaster stamps on airmail letters 1946—1959
21 August 2017	AGM - David Kajewski	Postcards from Mac

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## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

By the time most have read this issue, Melbourne 2017 34th FIAP International Stamp Exhibition with FIP Recognition will be done and dusted. Your award will be known and joy or disappointment will be evident.

It is also coincidentally “Royalpex 125” a non-competitive exhibition by members of The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. The occasion marks the Society’s 125th anniversary and continues a tradition of non-competitive exhibits/displays for the RPSV’s centenary (1992) and 75th anniversary (1967). The society is to be congratulated on their longevity.

For all who either exhibited or displayed hearty congratulations on your achievements. It sure takes an amount of time to prepare a display/exhibit as once again I discovered afresh.

We are privileged in Melbourne to have such opportunity to attend a world class exhibition and considering the last one for Melbourne was 2013 we should feel proud of what has been achieved.

Thank you again for all our contributors who have provided interesting material to publish. Please keep it up.

Ciao for now.

### Privacy Statement

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3. publish details of members, with their consent, in the AJPH or other Society publications.

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## “Australia Calling” short wave radio

**John Young**

In 1928 the Postmaster-General's Department installed an experimental 600-watt short wave radio transmitter 36 km southeast of central Melbourne. The transmitter was at a place named Lyndhurst. There was not much there. It was a dairying and agricultural district between Dandenong [then the 'gateway to Gippsland'] and Cranbourne, and had a store with a post and telegraph office, a public hall, a railway station, a Presbyterian church and a state school.

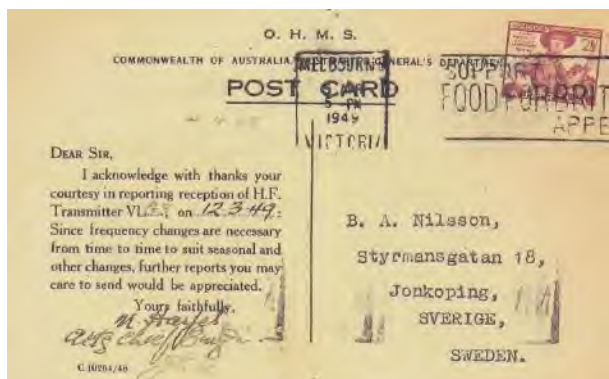
Lyndhurst was originally named Bald Hills, which gives a hint as to why it was chosen for a transmission tower. In fact the precise site was known as Fagan's Hill, named after a widow, Margaret Fagan, who settled there in the 1850s. Margaret ran a refreshments house for the passing coach trade. Another reason for choosing Fagan's hill was that the State electricity grid was connected to a model dairy at Lyndhurst in the year the radio transmitter opened.

In 1931 the transmitter was given the call sign VK 3LR, becoming VLG in 1941. There was also a series of power upgrades, reaching 3kW in 1939, when the broadcasting of 'Australia Calling' began to Japan, Philippines and the Dutch East Indies. A 10kW transmitter was installed in 1941.

With that power, transmission could go around the world with suitable conditions and equipment, even to as far as Scandinavia. On 12 March 1949 reception in Sweden was reported, which Lyndhurst acknowledged in a postcard to B A Nilsson of Jonkoping.

Apart from being a nice piece of ephemera, the postcard is a rare example of foreign-destination postcard usage.

The postage rate was 2 pence, plus a half penny war tax, and the franking is the 2 ½ pence Scout Jamboree stamp. Postal historians will know that the later 4 ½ pence George VI definitive used solo on a postcard is valued at about 200 to 300 dollars. That stamp had a sale period of 19 months. The Scout stamp was probably on sale for half that time, which probably makes it rarer, used on a postcard to a foreign country.



Illus. 1: Correctly franked (2½ pence) for surface mail postcard to Sweden, April 1949.



Illus. 2: reverse of postcard.

The Lyndhurst transmission site was downgraded in the 1980s. It has gone under a housing estate and the suburb's name has changed to Lynbrook. One of its streets is named Towerhill Boulevard and the neighbourhood playground is situated where the tower once stood.