

# Australian Journal of Philately

(Incorporating: The Date Stamp and Australian Journal of Postal History)

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**Letters using Skymaster Airmail Stamps of 1946—Part 1**

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**4. More Japanese Occupation plus Resistance in PNG**

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**Cover Story—120gm Brussels to Manhattan Airmail letter**

**Hand-Held Date-Stamp Notes**

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.

Subscription. The annual subscription: In Australia: \$A25.00 (Australian Journal of Philately by surface); Asia/Pacific - including New Zealand: **\$A25.00 (2 mail outs), \$A 35.00 (4 mail outs)**, (airmail\*); ROW: USA, Canada, Europe etc: **\$A28.00 (2 mail outs), \$A 41.00 (4 mail outs)**, (airmail\*). Society members receive four copies of The Australian Journal of Philately each year. (\* airmail is now the only AP option)

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### Advertising in the Journal:

Half Page \$A30.00	Please send copy to the Editor
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Date	2016 /17 Programme	Display
19 June 2017	Michael Barden	Skymaster stamps on airmail letters 1946—1959
21 August 2017	AGM - David Kajewski	Postcards from Mac
16 October 2017	Tony Lyon	WW2 Pacific Forces

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Overseas express delivery from St Kilda (3 May 1961) to Tel Aviv (7 May—Backstamp). Correctly franked 5 sh. And 3 pence for airmail (2 sh.), Registration (2 sh.) and special delivery (1 sh. 3 pence).	

## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

Did you have the opportunity to visit Melbourne 2017 and Royalpex 125 which was held in late March early April at the Caulfield Racecourse? It was a very good exhibition in spite of some of the issues that some raised. Lighting could have been better and some of the aisles were narrow. However in order to make the aisles wider would have resulted in a number of exhibits not being on show, which would have been very disappointing to those who missed out.

There was a good number of dealers with many opportunities to find something for a collection or future exhibit. Over all it seemed to me to be a successful show and congratulations to the organisers and volunteers. I was able to attend each day and it was good to meet other collectors. Achieving a vermeil for my WWII New Zealand postal history entry was the icing on the cake.

Congratulations for those members who exhibited. The problem with these great opportunities that a so few and far between, is being able to inspect exhibits of interest. There never seems to be enough time.

Keep the articles coming. The cupboard is looking a little bare. Thank you to those regular contributors for enabling a journal to be published.

Finally, it was sad to hear that Dr Maurice Alan Mishkel, a contributor to this journal, and many other journals, passed away October 2, 2016.

Ciao for now.

## Privacy Statement

The Society collects, uses, discloses and holds personal information of members in accordance with the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988.

The Society collects personal information about a member in order to:

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2. inform members about the Society's activities;
3. publish details of members, with their consent, in the AJPH or other Society publications.

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The Society will strive to ensure that the personal information of members is accurate, up to date and complete. Members can assist the Society in this task by providing correct information and advising when details have changed.



## From The President

Some of our members belong to the Melbourne Papua and New Guinea Study Circle. Its convenor is Max Bulley, one of our long-standing members. This year the Circle has published a really elegant syllabus for its meetings which are held at the premises of the Brighton Philatelic Society, corner of Gardenvale and Magnolia Roads, Gardenvale.

The Circle's remaining meetings for 2017 are;

7.30 pm 25 Aug, Australian Stamp usage in PNG, 1945-53

8.00 pm 24 Nov, Members' display [6 pages]

Visitors are very welcome.

Speaking of Papua New Guinea, those of us of a certain age may remember queuing at the Melbourne Philatelic Bureau to buy current mint PNG stamps. The Bureau was in the postal hall of the Russell Street post office, just to the right of the sales counter shown in the picture below.

The postal hall was on the ground floor of the multi-storey Russell Street telephone exchange, situated on a minor landmark known Russell Hill. If you stand at the street corner you can see that the land falls away in three directions.

In its day the building was a postwar spectacle. It was designed and built under the supervision of the Commonwealth Department of Works from 1948 to 1954; construction took five years. The design was a notable departure from pre-war buildings, with an interlocking cubic design and pink granite Doric columns. The interior echoed 1930s Italianate Modernism with a dashing striped floor and smart metal grill work.



Postal Hall – Russell Exchange



Former Russell Street Telephone Exchange (2017)

Of course the exchange was built for the old copper network. In 2002 the building was converted to apartments, and the postal hall was turned over to shops and a restaurant. The exterior of the building,



Hermes Sculpture, former Russell Street telephone exchange