

# Australian Journal of Philately

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

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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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<b>Date</b>	<b>2018 / 2019 Programme</b>	<b>Display</b>
18 February 2019	John Young	Indo –China postal history
15 April 2019	Alan Gray	'Postage to Collect', Australian Colonial Mail
17 June 2019	Ian Sadler	China 1878-1920

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## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

Christmas greetings to those who were unable to attend the members meeting. This quarter's journal contains an interesting range of articles and information so I hope there is something that pecks your interest.

Thanks to all the contributors.

Ian Cutters article 'More Expectation of Service' brings to mind the complete lack thereof from the various administrations around the globe. With all the modern conveyances it boggles the mind how slow the mail is. I think the snail gets a bad wrap!

Did you hear the funny one about the boffins at New Zealand Post who decided that it was too costly to cancel the stamps so they would do away with that operation altogether. Remember these people get paid huge sums of money to think! This state of affairs that quickly went pear shaped, resulted in the spin doctors being pushed under the bus to explain that this experiment was now complete and they will revert to cancelling the mail. A famous saying of the veritable John Elliot comes to mind—some thing about the rear of a pig.

Must have been a field day for the stamp recyclers if you know what I mean!

Anyway hope your Christmas celebrations go well and you approach the new year with great hope and success.

Until next time ciao.

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2. inform members about the Society's activities;
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## From the President

With the approach of Christmas I thought it appropriate to remember a Christmas past, 104 years ago.

Charles Davey, an Australian Lieutenant, was en route to the European war in December 1914, and sent a Christmas greeting to his father, W J Davey. His father was the proprietor of the Observer newspaper in Kerang, Victoria. Charles wrote:

Dear Dad,

Best wishes for Christmas. Keeping good health. Weather rather hot. Cool nights, doing 12 ½ knots,

Yours, Chas

The greeting was on the back of a Ceylon postcard that depicted a Buddhist procession. The card was endorsed 'On Active Service AIF No Stamps Available' and was machine cancelled in Melbourne on 21 December 1914, timed nicely to arrive in Kerang by Christmas Eve.



Charles went into action at Gallipoli. When engaged in an action against a Turkish position he was shot through the hip. He was evacuated by ship to Alexandria, but died from his wound and was buried at sea on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1915, two days after the Anzac landing. He was 25 years old. The New Year turned to ashes for his father.



Speaking of the New Year, I set out below the syllabus for members meetings for 2019. We meet at RSL Canterbury Memorial Homes, 152 Canterbury Road, Canterbury [Melway 46 C10-11] at 7.45 pm.

- 18 Feb John Young, Indo –China postal history
- 15 April Alan Gray, 'Postage to Collect', Australian Colonial Mail
- 17 June Ian Sadler, China 1878-1920
- 19 Aug Tony Lyon, New Zealand military-issue stationery. AGM
- 21 Oct Frank Pauer, early Aust. FDCs: OR Members' exhibits up to 10 pages
- 16 Dec Ditto

A final thought. We have lost the services of Michael Barden after decades of unstinting help, and Ian Sadler has stepped in for a short time. We need a member to replace him in the role of membership secretary, keeping the membership list up to date and arranging the dispatch of the electronic version of our journal. Please think about it over the Christmas-New Year break.