

EDITORIAL WELCOME

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL WELCOME	1
NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS	2
A380 COVERS	2
DIGITAL MICROSCOPE	3
NEW MEMBERS	3
AGM	3
NOMINATIONS	3
AGM 13TH MAY 2008	4

Hello everyone.

Another month just shot past. I cannot believe it. And I think quite a bit has been happening in the stamp world. My stamp world, in that I started soaking stamps again, in the evenings after work. How relaxing is that.

In the broader community stamp world in Australia, and in fact any world that sells on eBay in Australia, we have the news that eBay is telling us they are making some changes to the way we pay for purchases :

The first change announces that from 21 May 2008 buyers and sellers must offer Paypal as one of the payment methods that can be used, and from 17 June 2008 all items appearing on eBay.com.au (ie. Australia) must be paid for using Paypal, Pay on picking up, or with Visa/MasterCard with transactions processed through eBay.

The second change eBay is introducing is a new way of protecting members with an identity verification process. In short this will mean that wherever you are , and not using your own computer, eBay will be able to check which computer you are using and ask for verification of your identity! They say.... "From now on the system will be noting the computers members regularly use when buying and selling on eBay. Then in June, we'll begin checking the computer you use to list an item to see if it's one you regularly use.

If you list an item using a different computer (e.g. at a friend's house, in a hotel, at the library) we may make a call to the phone number on your account to confirm that it's really you. We might also prompt you to verify your identity in other ways."

The email traffic on these changes has been heavy, to say the least. For example, there is much to read on Stampboards.com board – I've written about Stampboards.com before – and I encourage you to read it if you want to get the pulse of the feeling out there in the community. You can read lots of comments at the forum at: <http://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?p=256196#256196>

and <http://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?t=5495>

What has the IPDA done. Well we have lodged a complaint through the official channels as we believe the payment change is not an acceptable way to ask eBay members to conduct business. We got the boring publicity reply which did not answer the question and issue we raised but I expect anyone who writes will get the same.

Finally, if anyone would like to sign an online petition to stop eBay from implementing their proposed policy of PayPal only for eBay transactions in Australia, go to: http://www.petitiononline.com/mod_perl/signed.cgi?ebayau&1

Best wishes, Oh, and don't feel shy about writing to me with ideas or articles for the Newsletter

Michael

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following is from Alan Devine, the IPDA Secretary,

In April The Directors held their final meeting of the year before the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on 13 May, or 14 May if you live in the Southern hemisphere. So put this date in your diaries and please turn up. It is your big annual opportunity for members to have a say on the IPDA's future.

You should have received the formal Notice and Agenda, plus, other documents by email by now. Please write to Alan or myself if you have not received the material.

Vacancies at the AGM are the Secretary's position and one Directorship. Last month the Association opened negotiations with the APS to become an affiliated Chapter in the APS. This is not a takeover or an amalgamation, just seeing if we can gain some benefits from some of the APS services. IPDA members will not be required to pay any new or additional fees – it will be FREE, if we succeed with the application.

Another big move the Board is taking, is to seek tax exemption status with the Internal Revenue Service of the USA. Now that we are a corporation we do have to sort out our tax obligations and what better if we are exempted from tax.

Each year the Board of Directors is required to review membership fees for the next year. You will be pleased to hear that there will be NO change for 2009/10.

Alan Devine stepped down from the Treasurer's role last month. He has been doing that job for the last four years but is now obliged to reduce his work load for health reasons. Jack Hesketh of Scotland is our new Treasurer and I guess you will all be in touch with him from time to time. Alan will have completed the hand over to Jack around the end of April.

Also, last month Alan handed over the Membership Secretary's job to Dave Arthur who lives in Cheshire in the UK. Dave is already deeply involved in his new job. Both Jack and Dave are warmly welcomed to their posts.

Some of you may be wondering what is happening with the web site. Well it is still operating but we are only able at the current time to make minor updates because our web master Roy Simpson has just moved from the UK to Spain and is desperately waiting for his new home to be connected with the phone lines and of course with the internet.

Michael Dodd, Director and Newsletter Editor is another of our travelling Directors. He has taken on a new job and his new office is in Seoul, South Korea. He seems to spend most of his time travelling in an A380 between Singapore, UK and Korea. He writes the monthly newsletters whilst on the plane. He even manages to get back home to Australia once or twice a month. What a life! If you are reading this newsletter give a thought to contributing some article or sending in a piece of news, no matter how small or large or whether it needs editing or writing up. We can handle anything and everything. If you have a contribution, send it straight to Michael Dodd at email address cddstamps@gmail.com

All the best, Alan Devine, Secretary Editors Note: Thanks Alan, for the plug for the Newsletter: and for the record I have done 150 flying hours over the past 10 weeks. Singapore Airlines and Korean Air are both excellent I can tell you. MD

A380 COVERS

So what better way to finish this page than to show one of my Singapore London A380 covers.

Signed by all four operating pilots. Only 4 exist! And each is different!! Want one? Email me at cddstamps@gmail.com.

Michael



DIGITAL MICROSCOPE

I read a piece the other day about a new digital microscope that has been launched by Stanley Gibbons in the UK. In simple terms I understand that you install some software onto your computer, plug in this microscope and start to view your stamps. With a video option you get a zoom range of 26X to 130X. Interesting. Certainly beats the magnifying glass I have and the occasional scan and enlarge using Photoshop Elements.

This basic thing is equipped with a VGA resolution camera, along with a 5X optical zoom lens. Images are captured straight onto the computer screen. Before I order one – I love new gadgets – I thought I'd ask if anyone has one? Do write to me. I'll tell everyone else as well so we can all share in the knowledge.



NEW MEMBERS

This past month we have had a few new members: I hope I have you all. Welcome to:

Allan Oliver <http://philatelics.org/~allan/shrop/shop/index.html>

G Holmes – Victorian Stamps Ltd – <http://www.victorianstamps.com>

Noble Albert Farage (noblealbert@yahoo.es)

Don M. O'Neal <http://www.allclassicstamps.com>

AGM NOMINATIONS

Dear Members, In preparation for the AGM on 13 May 2008 the Secretary would be grateful if you would email him any response to the following requests.

1. If you would like to stand for election to one of the two vacant positions, or the combined positions, please, let the Secretary know as soon as you can

There will be two vacancies to be filled at the AGM. One is the Association Secretary's position, the other is a Director's position on the Board of Directors which is being vacated by Dave Ramsay.

The Director's role covers - attending Board Meetings; policy making; considering changes to the Rules; considering applications for membership; dealing with any issues or problems that might arise that specifically requires the Board's attention and considering ideas/suggestions/proposals to improve or add to the Association's activities and its performance.

2. If you have any motions that you would like the Annual General Meeting to consider please forward these to the Secretary as soon as possible.

Motions are divided into three categories – One, are those which will change/amend the current Rules. These will be considered by the AGM. Two, are those which will add new Rules to the constitution. These will also be considered at the AGM. Three, are those motions which will not change or add to the constitution. These will be placed on the Agenda for the first Board Meeting following the AGM. Where necessary these may require a General Meeting of the Association to be approved.

To email the Secretary please write to Alan Devine at secretary@ipdaonline.org

AGM MAY 13TH



INTERNET PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with Rule 10.9 of the Constitution I give notice that the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at 5.30pm on Tuesday, 13th. May 2008.

The Meeting will take place in the IPDA Open Chat Meeting Room at www.ipdaonline.org
(click the "Chat Now" box).

Alan Devine
Secretary.
8 March 2008.

AGENDA

1. Verification of members present and of Proxies received.
2. Meeting will open at 5.45pm sharp with a Welcome Message from the Chair.
3. Confirmation of a Quorum.
4. To adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th. June 2007.
5. To adopt the Chairman and the Secretarial Reports for 2007/08.
6. To adopt the Treasurer's Report, Audited Accounts & Balance Sheet for 2007/08.
7. To adopt, amend or reject proposals to change the Constitution of the Association
8. Election of members to fill vacant Director and Officer positions.
9. To adopt, amend or reject the Annual Business Plan and Financial Budget for 2008/09.
10. To Appoint an Honorary Auditor for 2008/09
11. Close of Meeting.

Please note: An information 'pack' containing all reports, motions and proposals will be circulated at least one week before the AGM.

INVITATION

Following the Annual General Meeting Members, guests and visitors are invited to stay on and join us in a general chat meeting. The Directors would like to hear your views, comments and ideas and will be please to answer your questions.