

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2013

EDITORS COLUMN

Hello everyone, Welcome to the February Newsletter.

I started my January Editorial by writing about Social Media. Not sure if anyone reads me or not! I did think I would get some response but no such luck. I know we have the IPDA Facebook page which is admirably administered by member Rod Tilyard and we do get a few comments and thoughts on philatelic matters of course.

But it does interest me to know if other members take an interest in Social Media channels when it comes to philatelic matters. As I mentioned before, there are many thousands of philatelic blogs on the internet now so I think that suggests the hobby really is alive and well if one judges it by the amount written on philatelic matters. And, there are hundreds of philatelic related Twitter sites, as well as Facebook and Yahoo Stamp groups. And of course there is the Stampboards site which has been one amazing success.

These sites all keep us informed and offer forums to dialogue, debate and discuss such a wide diversity of philatelic topics. None of this was possible before the internet was it?

So back to my original point from last months Editorial. What do you as members do to promote your business, your sales and your credibility? How much do you participate in such forums and do you see value in them. From an IPDA perspective are there things we should be thinking about to further promote the IPDA through such forums and channels.

I found the StampoRama site this week. Another interesting site and one that reads like a fully fledged group. How many of us are members and do you participate there, They report they have 1841 members, pretty good!!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EDITORS COLUMN	1
IPDA CONFIDENTIAL LIST	2
WORLD STAMP EXPO 2013	2
BIRDS ON STAMPS	3
GLEN STEPHENS WRITES	4
ILLEGALS— DO YOU SUPPORT	5
FROM THE NEWS	6
CLOSING REMARKS	6

Stamp of the Month



Having some knowledge of the subject certainly pays off. In January 2013, an upside down strike of "Little Swamp" sold for about \$US620 on eBay. If you saw it in a club circuit book priced at 50c would you have bought it?

Courtesy: Glen Stephens



StampoRama

The Stamp Club for People Who Love Stamps

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Main Menu

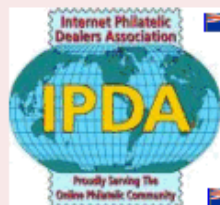
- Home
- Articles
- Exhibits
- FAQs
- Join
- Bylaws
- Volunteers

Stamporama began with 6 members in January 1996 with one idea -- trading duplicates among the members. Today Stamporama has 1841 members from 49 US states, 9 Provinces and Territories of Canada, 6 states of Australia and 66 total countries worldwide. We have members from 8 to 88, whose interests cover the entire range of stamps and stamp collecting, from cancellations to Back of the Book. We also study and collect covers, FDCs, rates, usages, routes, ephemera, Maximum cards, seals, body bags and crash covers, the machines creating the cancellations and postmarks, spray-ons and other transit markings not technically cancellations, history behind the man sending the stamp, and so much more. Our members include beginners to experts, and the best part is that everyone is here to help each other.

Please write and let's share views with each other. Some of you must have some good ideas.

And finally, one reason I ask all this is because I sent an email a few weeks ago asking for articles and help with this issue because my work hours this past month have been extremely demanding. (No complaints I might add I loved every minute of it working in Brisbane on the Virgin Australia implementation of the Sabre systems). I got three replies. Thank you, you know who you are. One a very new member and that was extremely encouraging to see.

Best wishes, Michael



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Page 2
February 2013
Volume 11 Issue 2

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2013

IPDA CONFIDENTIAL LIST

In case you did not see Alan's update on this topic

Dear Member,

Please note that after receiving reports from a number of IPDA and external sources an additional code has been added to the list of Codes of Offenses etc that is contained in the Constitution (see the Constitution in our website at www.ipdaonline.org

Please amend your copy of the Constitution – BL.009.00 – The Confidential List – (page 24/25) by adding the following new code to the List of Codes. The new code is – “ T2 Beware of Websites/Dealers, Sellers offering Bogus, False, Fake stamps. Report to the CLO immediately this is noticed/suspected.”

Regards, Alan Devine, Confidential List Officer.

WORLD STAMP EXPO—MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA 10–15 MAY 2013

Anyone planning a visit to Australia in May 2013? If you are, how about a few days in Melbourne!! From 4th February, Day Passes will be available for sale. The cost is just AUS \$10, available from Australia Post www.shop.auspost.com.au Can we arrange something in advance so we can all meet up? And even something to help promote the IPDA. I think there are 16 Australian resident members and one in New Zealand of course. Anyone thinking of going? I look forward to hearing from you. For more details visit <http://www.australia2013.com/> and see more in Glen Stephens piece on following pages

HOME THE EVENT SOUVENIRS VISITORS CONTRIBUTORS SHOPPING CART

131 days to go

Australia 2013 FIP World Stamp Exhibition

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BIRDS ON STAMPS - JUST A VERY INTERESTING ARTICLE I THOUGHT I WOULD SHARE

Woodpeckers are known for tapping on tree trunks in order to find insects living in crevices in the bark and to excavate nest cavities. There are over 180 species of woodpeckers, all in the family Picidae.

Woodpeckers can be found in wooded areas all over the world, except in Australia. The woodpecker's strong, pointed beak acts as both a chisel and a crowbar to remove bark and find hiding insects. It has a very long tongue, up to four inches in some species – with a glue-like substance on the tip for catching insects.

While most birds have one toe pointing back and three pointing forward on each foot, woodpeckers have two sharply clawed toes pointing in each direction to help them grasp the sides of trees and balance while they hammer – this formation is called zygodactyl feet. Many woodpecker species also have stiffened tail feathers, which they press against a tree surface to help support their weight.

Woodpeckers live in wooded areas and forests, where they tap on tree trunks in order to find insects living in crevices in the bark and to excavate nest cavities. Some species drum on trees to communicate to other woodpeckers and as a part of their courtship behavior.

Woodpeckers tap an estimated 8,000-12,000 times per day. Some species require very specific conditions for their home.

The **Banded Woodpecker** (*Picus miniaceus*) is a species of bird found in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, and Thailand.

The **Common Flameback** or Common Goldenback (*Dinopium javanense*) is a species of bird in the Picidae family. It is found in Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.



A medium-sized, golden-backed woodpecker with long and solid black moustachial stripes. Both sexes have black eyestripes joined to black rear neck stripe.

The **Lesser Yellownape** (*Picus chlorolophus*) is a type of woodpecker which is a widespread and often common breeder in tropical southern Asia from India and Sri Lanka east to south China and Sumatra.

This is a jungle species which nests in a tree hole, laying two to four white eggs. Like other woodpeckers, this species has a straight pointed bill, a stiff tail to provide support against tree trunks, and zygodactyl or "yoked" feet, with two toes pointing forward, and two backward.

The long tongue can be darted forward to capture insects. The Lesser Yellownape is a largish species at 27 cm in length. It has a typical woodpecker shape.



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Page 4

February 2013
Volume 11 Issue 2

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2013

GLEN STEPHENS WRITES — PUBLISHED WITH KIND PERMISSION

I know stamp collectors are a thoughtful bunch, who like to plan things ahead of time, hence this VERY early reminder. The huge International in Melbourne will be taking place only 4 months from when you read this - on May 10-15. It may well be the last time we see one held here – cost is well into the multi MILLIONS I am reliably told, to stage this event.

Airline tickets and hotels are much cheaper if booked way ahead of time, and NOW is the time to lock-in your dates whilst prices are attractive! Air tickets from Europe and the USA are MOST attractively priced at this time period you will find.

The Committee for this show have put in an enormous amount of work over recent years, and have the savviest folks from both the dealer and collector groups among their number.

About 80 dealers and trade stands are booked, and anyone local NOT booked is missing the best opportunity in the past 30 years to expose their business and products.



The venue will be the magnificent Royal Exhibition Building, in Nicholson Street Carlton, on the edge of the CBD.

Royal Exhibition Building Venue

The venue is a World Heritage listed site since 2004, and hosted the First Australian Parliament opening on May 9, 1901 – officiated by Prince George, Duke Of Cornwall and York who of course later became King George V. This opening was depicted on the 1951 5½d stamp, VERY loosely based on the iconic Tom Roberts megapainting. The dome of the Building was modelled on the Cathedral in Florence Italy. A “fisheye lens” image is shown opposite.



www.Australia2013.com is the well laid out website, covering everything you need to know about the show. The times, the dealers, the layout, and the exhibits etc.

There are some superb goodies and souvenirs for the show produced already – all outlined on the website. “Patron” packages are still available for \$A500 for those in a position to financially support the show, and for that you get some really exclusive goodies and benefits.

I signed up for 2 right from day #1, for myself and for stampboards.com, and there are a lot of prominent names I am surprised to **NOT** see on the “Patron” list – so let’s get into it folks.

There is also a “Supporters Club” package at \$A100 that is also great value for collectors attending, offering many benefits. Lists of the members of both are on the website. This is THE biggest global exhibition frame-wise since Washington 2006, which had 3,600 frames.

“Australia 2013” found extra space to increase the number of frames being accepted, to 3,400 frames. ‘London 2010’ had 2,400 frames, ‘Indonesia 2012’ had 2200, and ‘Philanippon 2011’ had 2,500. 3,400 frames is near a world record for stamps on display globally - ever. With the Championship class etc, we are talking some **55,000 album pages!**



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2013

GLEN STEPHENS WRITES — PUBLISHED WITH KIND PERMISSION

Collectors making a visit to Melbourne in May will be handsomely rewarded with all kinds of top end exhibits on show, and leading global dealers in attendance. An extensive range of stamps from the superb collection of Her Majesty The Queen will be on show – many for the first time.

APTA and the APF have worked hard for years to get it this large, and credit to all concerned for their hard and effective work

The organisers have kindly arranged a table for stampboards.com, and an official meeting at 2pm Sunday, and we hope to have a lot of folks there. tinyurl.com/Aust2013 contains more info on those matters for anyone interested.

There will be an auction by Phoenix Auctions of the Stuart Hardy Kangaroo Collection on the afternoon of the first day, May 10th.

All lots will be on view at Stampex London in late February. I have never **seen** so many 5 figure estimates in a sale catalogue - what a sale.

This will include the unique fresh MUH block 24 of the Small Multiple watermark Kangaroo, which I suspect will fetch a phenomenal sum – well in excess of the \$A100,000 estimate. The ultimate Roo block!

It was originally a full pane of 60, bought from Robson Lowe by Ken Baker for £20 each in the 1960s, who onsold the bottom 36 units to Hardy for £1,080 at that time.

A block of 12 was subsequently (nervously he says!) torn off by an Adelaide dealer on Hardy's kitchen table, and sold off in pieces, leaving this unique block of 24.

Glen writes lots more in his column which I hope you read though his various channels. One last piece from his February column, which I thought would be of interest to members.

Glen writes - I've often mentioned here how high prices can be for scarcer Australian state postmarks. The nice strike nearby of the SA Squared Circle "EVELEEN SA" cancel sold at Australian auction in September 2011 for **\$A4,140** when all fees were added.

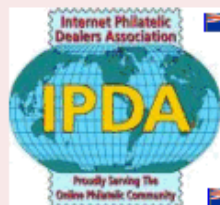
The estimate was just \$750, and the stamp is worth about 20c without the postmark. Would you have known it was a \$4,000+ piece? Other SA "Squared Circle" postmarks can get good prices too.

A new book on this subject has been "coming soon" for near 6 years, and a stampboards.com Moderator based in Toronto Canada is one of the folks involved in the snail's pace project.

tinyurl.com/SC-SthA is the near 1000 post discussion on South Australia "Squared Circle" postmarks, started by "Stamp News" columnist Tony Presgrave on stampboards.com. If you have an interest in this area, it contains a ton of data recorded nowhere else, and maybe you can add some new info to the database, and update any new strikes recorded?



Reproduced with Glen's kind permission, from his February "Market Matters" Column in Stamp News Australia



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Page 6
February 2013
Volume 11 Issue 2

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2013

ILLEGALS – DO YOU SUPPORT THEM?

Back in September last year I wrote an article supporting the so called 'illegal' issues. I mentioned how relatively cheap they were, how it was possible to easily put together an interesting thematic collection and that in the main, illegals were well produced. My article went on to suggest that traditional stamps were heading in the 'self-destruct' direction by the introduction of printed labels.

In the article, I recognised that such issues may be regarded as 'undesirable' and mentioned that issues from Tristan da Cunha and Pitcairn Islands with their tiny populations could also be described as unnecessary. Over the years there have been many other dubious or unnecessary 'legal' issues. I'm thinking here of the high face value 1883 Columbian Exposition set from the USA or the 1887 Jubilee issue from Canada, both sets featuring values to \$5. Also in this category are the 1948 Royal Silver Weddings which included a high value for each territory. Collectors at that time were tempted to boycott the entire issue although today they have acquired respectability and sets from Hong Kong (and others) are frequently illustrated in auction catalogues.

I'm not suggesting that the illegals will ever reach the dizzy heights of even appearing in an auction catalogue, let alone being illustrated, but I do wonder how collectors and dealers outside of the thematic world feel about them.

So if you have any thoughts for or against these illegals, please let me know at roger@avionstamps.com or through the editor

FROM THE NEWS

CLOSING REMARKS

What has 2013 in store for you? Any predictions? I never thought I would get my Bidstart Store going but that was one of my Resolutions — thanks to member Don in New Zealand for his advice and ideas I should add. One member helping another And I have to say how good is the Bulk Loader feature. Took me two goes to master it. Well done Bidstart.

What about the IPDA? Can we do more to grow the membership and our presence in the market place and get more buyers aware of the value of sellers being members of an organisation like ours.

Can we meet up in Melbourne in May?

But finally, some very sad news to also tell you. Member Graeme Stubbs from the UK died on Christmas Day. He was 58. Lost for words to be honest. Condolences to his family.

Best wishes to everyone Take care and as always, I welcome ideas and materials for inclusion in the Newsletter, and thank those who contributed to this one

Michael michaelatipda@gmail.com

eBay experiences

Allan Grant of Rushstamps and I exchanged recent eBay experiences. I told Allan of an Indian collector wanting to purchase 21 packets of stamps from us on eBay. He had cancelled the order because of the cost of postage from the UK to Delhi, and then registered 29 negative feedbacks with eBay, because of our 'postage costs', outrageous!

"I can beat that", said Allan, who then proceeded to tell of the lovely Victorian necklace of penny reds on a cotton thread, sold on eBay by Rushstamps. The stamps were returned in one bag unthreaded from the string, which was in a separate bag. The buyer complained that the stamps had holes in – Allan was understandably annoyed!

eBay is a powerful selling medium which, when used properly can boost dealers' sales. The frivolous complaints I have illustrated here are familiar to all dealers who use eBay. One has to accept that eBay has rigid guidelines which, on balance, work to the favour of the buyer. One of the major problems with eBay is the amount of bogus material being sold. The Royal Philatelic Society recently highlighted this in a letter which appeared in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*.

Thus it is perfectly OK to sell forged overprints as forged overprints.