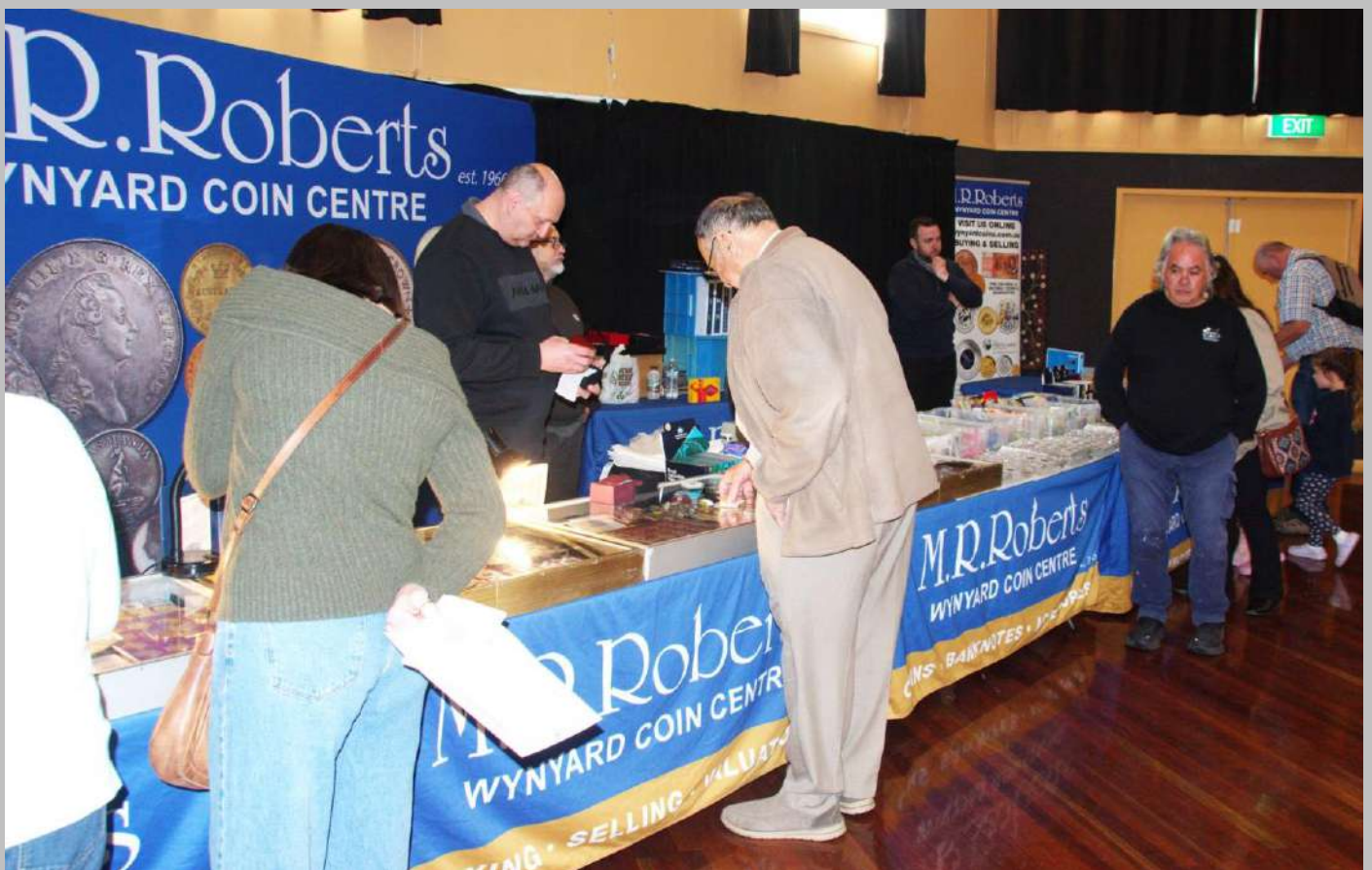


NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COIN & STAMP CLUB FOR 25th August 2026

#285-



The M.R. Roberts / Wynyard Coin Centre tables at our Orange Coin & Stamp Expo in May 2026

Our web-site is <https://orangecoinsandstamps.org/>

The current Club meeting is on this Tuesday 25th August 2026 at 7.30pm.

Our next Mini-fair is on Saturday morning 5th September 2026, from 9-12ish, at the Orange Cultural Centre in Sale St.

Straight after at 12 midday the annual Club coin & stamp auction commences.

The next night meeting after this August one is on Tuesday 29th September 2026.

The 29th September meeting is immediately followed by our annual general meeting.

The Club normally meets on the last Tuesday of each month (except January) at 7.30pm.

Our mini-fairs are on the first Saturday of each month (except January, from 9 to 12ish.

Our 2-day, 2025 Spring Fair will be held at the Orange High School on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th November, 2026



Our meetings and the monthly fair are held in the Orange Cultural Centre building Sale St, Orange. It's the building that used to be a school. It's on the right hand side as you enter the Woolworths Car Park.

OUR 2026 CLUB AUCTION STARTS MIDDAY ON SATURDAY, 5th SEPTEMBER 2026 FOLLOWING THE MORNING'S MINI-FAIR

Location: Orange Cultural Centre, 20 Sale St, Orange.

Time: 12 midday.

Date: Saturday Sept 5th 2026

Viewing: From 9am, the day of sale. No pre-viewing available.

Catalogues: There will be a minimal amount available on the morning of the auction.

Bids: On the day of auction only and in person. No absentee bidding.

Payment of winning lots: cash preferred.

Unsold listing - will not be available.

Payment for winning lots must be made the day of the auction prior to collection.

THE CLUB'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS ON TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Our 2026 annual general meeting is held straight after the September Monthly Meeting on Tuesday night 29th September. That one starts at 7.30pm. The following annual general meeting usually only lasts about 30 minutes.

All positions are up for election.

The current treasurer has indicated that he will not re-stand.

THIS IS FORMAL NOTICE OF THAT MEETING.

At the end of that meeting, your 2026-2027 membership fee of \$15 becomes due.

THE CLUB'S 2-DAY SPRING FAIR IS ON 14TH & 15TH NOVEMBER 2026

Our 2-day 2026 Spring Fair will be held at the Orange High School Hall on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th November. There is a \$2 entry charge, but accompanied kids are free.

Dealers come from around the State and the A.C.T. to buy and sell coins, stamps, banknotes and silver bullion.

It's a great chance for the general public to get your collectables valued.

HOWARD LYONS MADE A LIFE MEMBER OF THE CLUB

At the July 2026 meeting Howard Lyons was made a life member of the Club. Howard is also stepping down as publicity officer.

Howard has been the Club treasurer for 20 years and has decided to step down at the 30th September annual general meeting.

The Club owes much of its success to Howard organising our 2-day shows, Orange Coin & Stamp Expo and the Spring Fair.



Howard Lyons with 2 customers at Expo 2025

STAMP COLLECTION DONATED BY ANNE GAULT

A long-term correspondent, of the Club, Anne Gault of Grenfell, has donated her stamp collection to the Club. It's a substantive, well-set out collection, on Hagners, in about 25 Australia Post ring-binders

Anne had originally intended to bequeath it in her will on the basis that it be for the encouragement of junior collectors. However, Anne decided to pass it on to us now.

The donation is greatly appreciated.

DATES FOR 2026

Orange Coin & Stamp Club's monthly meeting, 25th August 2026, 7.30pm at the Orange Cultural Centre, Sale St, Orange

Bendigo Stamp Fair, 29th August 2026, 9.30-2.30, St Andrews Uniting Church Hall, 24 Myers St, Bendigo. Local & Melbourne dealers.

Petersham Stamp & Coin Fair, Sunday 30th August at Petersham Town Hall, 107 Crystal St.

Orange Coin & Stamp Club mini-fair, Saturday 5th September 2026, 9 to 12ish, at the Orange Cultural Centre, Sale St, Orange

FOLLOWED BY OUR ANNUAL CLUB AUCTION AT MIDDAY

Orange Coin & Stamp Club monthly meeting, followed by our **Annual General Meeting** on Tuesday night, 29th September 2026. 7.30pm at the Orange Cultural Centre, Sale St, Orange

Orange Coin & Stamp Club mini-fair, Saturday 3rd October 2026, 9 to 12ish, at the Orange Cultural Centre, Sale St, Orange

Toowoomba Stamp Club's 2026 Stamp Fair. Saturday 10th October 2026, 9-3.30, at the TIBA Hall, 10 Annand Street, Toowoomba, Qld

PHILAS Stamp Auction #146 at 1pm on Saturday 12th September 2026, VENUE:- Ground Floor, 2 City View Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120. Starts at 1pm.

Orange Coin & Stamp Club's monthly meeting, 27th October 2026, 7.30pm at the Orange Cultural Centre, Sale St, Orange

Orange Coin & Stamp Club mini-fair, Saturday 7th November 2026, 9 to 12ish, at the Orange Cultural Centre, Sale St, Orange

Orange Coin & Stamp Club's 2-day Spring Fair at the Orange High School Hall. Dates are Saturday & Sunday, 14th & 15th November 2026.

Wagga Club's 2-day Stamp & Coin Fair, Saturday 21st November (9 to 5) and Sunday 22nd November 2026 (9 to 3). At the Sturt

Primary School, White Avenue, Koorringal.
Enquiries to mobile 0488 081 943.

Orange Coin & Stamp Club's monthly meeting, 24th November 2026, 7.30pm at the Orange Cultural Centre, Sale St, Orange.
It's the last meeting in 2026.

Orange Coin & Stamp Club mini-fair, Saturday 7th December 2026, 9 to 12ish, at the Orange Cultural Centre, Sale St, Orange

OUR EXPO 2026 COIN & STAMP DEALERS - PLEASE KEEP SUPPORTING THEM IN 2026

- **M.R. Roberts' Wynyard Coins,** 3 Barrack St Sydney 2000; Ph (02) 9299 2047 & Fax (02) 9290 3710 Their e-mail address is sales@wynyardcoins.com
- **Orange Stamps & Coins** (Howard Lyons), PO Box 9288, Orange, 2800; Mobile 0427 107 554 Phone/fax (02) 6362 2368, E-mail: - howard.lyons@bigpond.com
Buying and Selling – Stamps, Coins, Banknotes, Accessories, etc.
- **Phil & Win Morehouse,** Bankstown. NSW 2200 Ph: (02)9707 4087, New e-mail is: - phillipmorehouse401@gmail.com
- **Top End Coins:** Les Robinson, P.O. Box 381, Nelson Bay. 2315 Phone: 0455 660
email: topendcoins@gmail.com
- **Peter Neville Stamps.** Orange. Phone 0400754209
peternevillestamps@gmail.com or www.ebay.com/str/stampsorangens
- **Larry's Bullion** (Glenn Deveigne), silver bullion bought and sold; phone

0458262302,
stillafriend2025@gmail.com

- **Roman Strausov, Canberra ACT**
Phone 0424 907 2132
Email: -
roman.strausov@SBLinternational.net
Selling Coins, etc.
- **Pacific Rim Coins.** Level 3, 1
Central Ave., Lane Cove, 2066. (02)
[9418 6593](tel:94186593)

TURN YOUR STAMPS INTO CASH! GET SOME PAGES READY FOR THE CLUB'S EXCHANGE BOOK

Colin needs members' stamp pages for the next stamp circuit book and the next coin/note circuit books

Colin can be contacted direct at Email:
ptilinopus1@bigpond.com Ph: 63690634.

ITEMS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER AND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CLUB

Items for this newsletter are always required. You do not have to be a member of the Orange Club. They need to be posted to the Editor, Derek Dolstra, who is also the secretary at the Club's postal address: -PO Box 9113, ORANGE 2800 or better still e-mailed in Word format (pictures as jpg files) to: - ddolstra@bigpond.net.au or Phone 02 63 614 872.

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

Derek Dolstra, secretary & newsletter, Phone 02 63 614 872 & e-mail at
ddolstra@bigpond.net.au Also PO Box 9113, Orange NSW 2800

Rob Willis, president rwillis@bigpond.com

Phone 04 393 89606

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Michael Burrough, digital publicity officer at michael.burrough@gmail.com



3 Barrack St Sydney 2000

Ph (02) 9299 2047 & Fax (02) 9290 3710
remains the same. Their e-mail address is
sales@wynyardcoins.com





TOOWOOMBA STAMP CLUB

2026

ANNUAL STAMP FAIR

Toowoomba Stamp Club Inc.



SALE BY TENDER
(NO RESERVES)

BARGAIN TABLE

DEALERS

CLUB BOOKS

RAFFLES

REFRESHMENTS





TIBA HALL
10 ANNAND ST
TOOWOOMBA CBD

9.00AM – 3.30PM

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2026

Everyone is welcome to come to the
Orange Coin & Stamp Club Inc.'s

2025 Spring Fair

Saturday 14th November, 2025

From 9am to 3pm

Sunday 15th November, 2025

9am to 2pm

**At the Orange High School Hall,
Cnr Summer and Woodward Streets, Orange**

(Off-street parking available, turn left opposite
United Petrol Station in Woodward St, just prior to the traffic lights.)

**NSW & ACT dealers will be offering a range of Australian & World stamps,
coins, banknotes & accessories. They also come to Orange to buy.**

.....

***PHILAS AUCTION # 145 will be held on
Saturday 12th September 2026***

START TIME: The room / online component is to start at 1pm

VENUE Ground Floor, 2 City View Road, Pennant Hills NSW
2120. Starts at 1pm

AUCTIONEERS: The Auctioneers are Ken Pullen and Bruce
Chadderton.

***There are no printed catalogues. The 7- page catalogue can be
downloaded from the Philatelic Association of NSW website, as can
the postal bidding sheet.***

ZERO EURO NOTES

Rob Willis remarked that on his recent European trip, he included a visit to Normandy in France.



There he was lucky enough to see the 1,495 metal silhouettes representing the soldiers who landed at Gold Beach on 6th June 1944. They had been made earlier for the D-Day Commemoration in 2024, but were temporarily returned to the beach from April to September this year.

In Normandy he noticed a Zero **Euro** souvenir banknote commemorating the Allied Beach Landings on the coast in 1944.

This, Rob said, was his introduction to Zero Euro banknotes. They are so named because they are all denominated in zero Euros. In other words they were worth zero, i.e. nothing.



Rob also came across Zero Euro notes again in London. Here they either showed "Zero Euro" or "Zero Pound".



The Zero Euro is a souvenir banknote that has been authorized by the European Central Bank (ECB). They started to become popular amongst collectors from 2018.

Their origin was in France, where in 2015, Richard Faille, a creator of French currency souvenirs, decided to create look-alike Euros that promoted tourism. They are sold as souvenirs. Although originally intended just to promote tourism they have since evolved into an “encyclopaedia of all Europe”.

What is uncanny about these pretend banknotes is that in addition to their visual similarity to conventional banknotes, they also show all the security features such as watermark, security strip, hologram, micro-writing, fluorescent colour and other details. These underline the high standard and quality of the production of these pretend notes.

The zero euro notes have been printed with various motifs, most often representing local landmarks, historical events, famous personalities or cultural symbols. Each motif is printed in a strictly limited edition and in addition each note has an individual serial number.

There are now an estimated 2,000 different motifs from most European countries as well as international motifs from all continents.

Although zero euro notes have absolutely no real monetary value in the traditional sense, they seem fascinate some collectors with the quality of their artistic design, their diversity and their uniqueness as an unconventional souvenir.

The banknotes are printed at a private fiduciary facility and they share many of the same characteristics of a real Euro, except that they are marked as “0”, hence the name. They are tested to ensure they cannot enter circulation as legitimate financial currency.

The front of all zero euros is the same - it includes a white zero followed by the Euro sign to denominate no financial value.



TONY READ – PABAY LOCAL STAMPS, NOW JUST CINDARELLAS

Tony, talking to the July Club meeting said that in the Club's forthcoming auction, there was a good range of British "local" stamps. Some, like those from the Isle of Lundy in the Bristol Channel actually had some postal use. Others came from Scottish islands with no inhabitants, only sheep, and were strictly cinderellas.

He showed a sample cover from the auction lot for the small Scottish island of Pabay.



Pabay is an island in the Inner Sound of Skye, lying 4 kilometres north of Broadford. Like most others in the Sound of Skye, it is a low, grassy island. It is 150 hectares in size.



Pabay Island in the middle distance from Skye

The Pabay labels go back to 1962 when English farmers Len & Margaret Whitley purchases the island. They started issuing local stamps. They were to cover the local postage cost of mail to the Skye mainland. They had to be used in conjunction with British Post Office stamps for the remainder of the letters journey.

The first ones featured island flora and fauna and even the islands geological heritage.



The Whatley's even set up a red posting box for the few visitors to the cold and & mostly wind-swept island.

The “problem” was that the number of “stamps” issued soon exploded. In the years 1965 to 1971 they pumped out more over 200 thematic issues. Many of these showed subjects totally unrelated to the island.

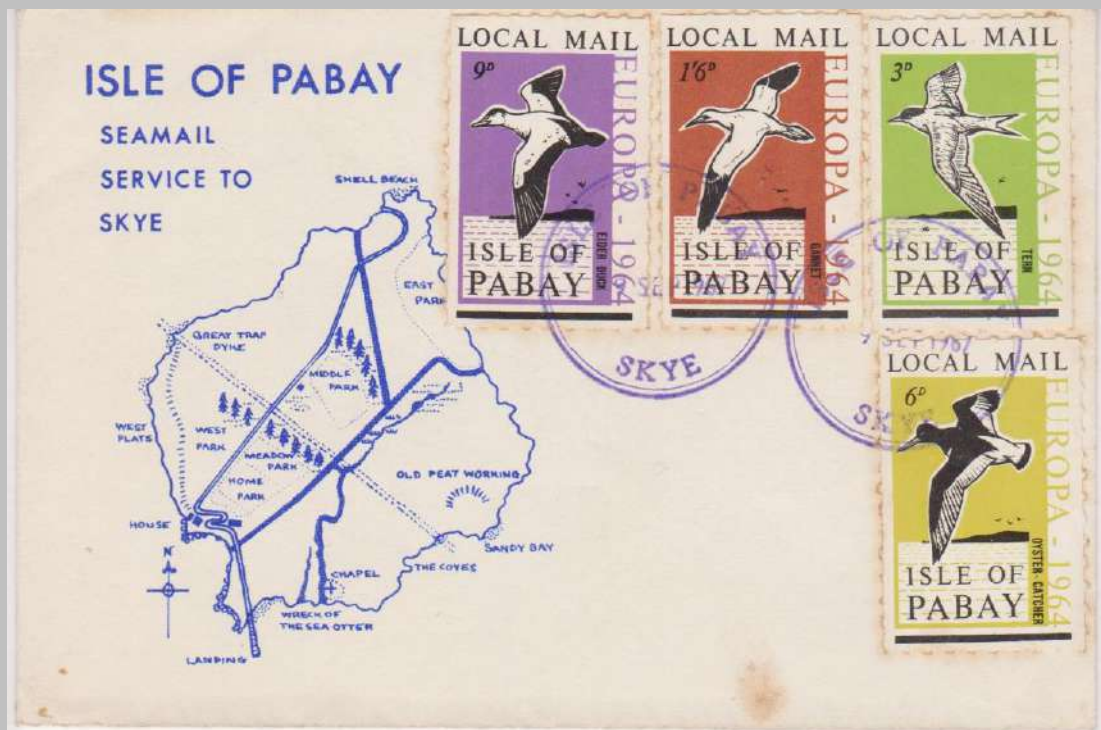
In 1971, Edward & Anne Garrard purchased the island. They reduced the output of Pabay’s “stamps”. The issues that they produced focused on Pabay’s heritage and the environment. In the late 1990’s, however, they gave sheep farming away and moved back to England. The island reverted to being uninhabited.

Despite that, Pabay “stamps” are still being issued. The island’s current owner (?), J.D. Harris, now lives in Martlock in Derbyshire. He offers from his internet address the range of recent Pabay issues. These all seem to have £2 or £3 values. The original ones were rarely over a shilling. Now they are now just cinderellas.





This poor image from E-bay shows what was supposed to happen – Pabay labels were on the back to pay for the boat trip to Skye. A British Post Office stamp was on the address side to pay postage from Broadford on Skye to whatever the destination was.



But, the reality was for 99% of Pabay covers, was that they were unaddressed and sold directly to collectors without ever going near a mail service.

POSTAGE STAMPS FROM CISKEI, TRANSKEI, BOPHUTHATSWANA & VENDA: The Failed Bantustans of South Africa

Tony Read also talked briefly to the July 2026 meeting about the stamp issues of the so-called home-lands “republics” set up by the former South African government, especially Ciskei and Transkei. One of the auction lots consisted of these stamps

Under South Africa's former vicious and inequitable policy of apartheid, land was set aside for black peoples in self-governing territories. They were called “home-lands”. Ten homelands were established, together taking 15% of South Africa for 80% of its population. All homelands gained a form of separation from White South Africa, four become “independent”. This independence of the homelands was not been recognized by anyone internationally.

The first established home-land was Transkei in 1976. It was followed by Ciskei in 1981. These were designated as one of two homelands, or "Bantustans", for Xhosa-speaking people.

They were declared nominally “independent” republics by the South African regime. Later Bophuthatswana was created for the Tswana people in 1977. In 1979 Venda was established for the Venda peoples in far northern South Africa.

Eventually, 55% of the black population were relocated to the homelands. At the end of the apartheid regime in 1994 the homelands were dissolved.

Only Ciskei, Transkei, Bophuthatswana and Venda produced their own postage stamps. They appear in Stanley Gibbons and Scott catalogues because they were accepted on mail by most other countries. That was despite not being recognised by the International Postal Union.

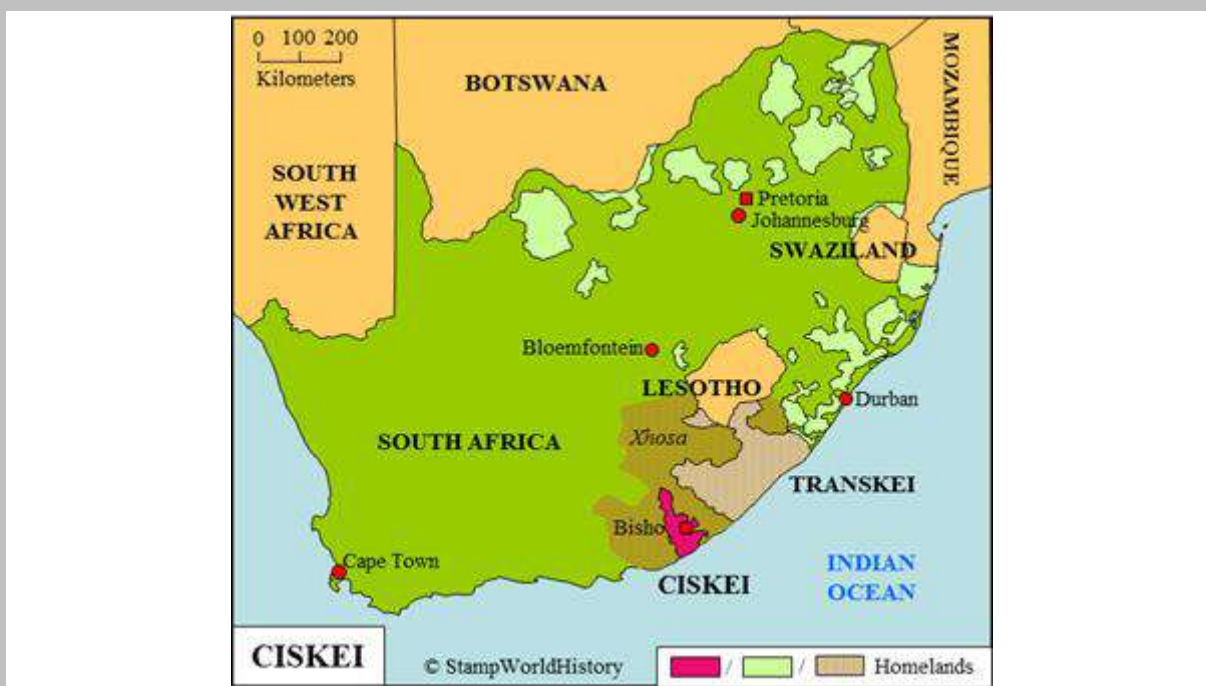
They also had their own postal administrations, their own parliaments, and their own armies – though when trouble brewed the South African Army invaded and sorted things out. They were all plagued by very high unemployment, poverty and political instability.

CISKEI

Xhosa people were forcibly resettled in the Ciskei, and Transkei, the other Xhosa homeland.

In contrast to the Transkei, which was largely contiguous and deeply rural, and governed by hereditary chiefs, the area that became the Ciskei had initially been made up of a patchwork of "reserves", interspersed with pockets of white-owned farms. Ciskei was declared a republic by South Africa in April 1981.

After its creation, large numbers of blacks, in particular, "non-productive Bantus"—women with dependent children, the elderly, and the infirm—were expelled by the apartheid government from designated white areas in the Cape Province to Ciskei, and it was also treated as a reservoir of cheap black labour.



After its creation, large numbers of blacks, in particular, "non-productive Bantus"—women with dependent children, the elderly, and the infirm—were expelled by the apartheid government from designated white areas in the Cape Province to Ciskei, and it was also treated as a reservoir of cheap black labour.

In 1961, Ciskei had earlier become a separate administrative region, and in 1972, was declared self-governing under the rule of Chief Justice Mabandla. In common with other Bantustans like Transkei, its independence was not recognised by anyone in the international community.

Black people who were found to be living without permits in white areas or farms in South Africa, often for generations, were forcibly relocated to Ciskei by apartheid authorities, generally from "black spots" in the neighbouring "white corridor", and moved into squalid resettlement camps.

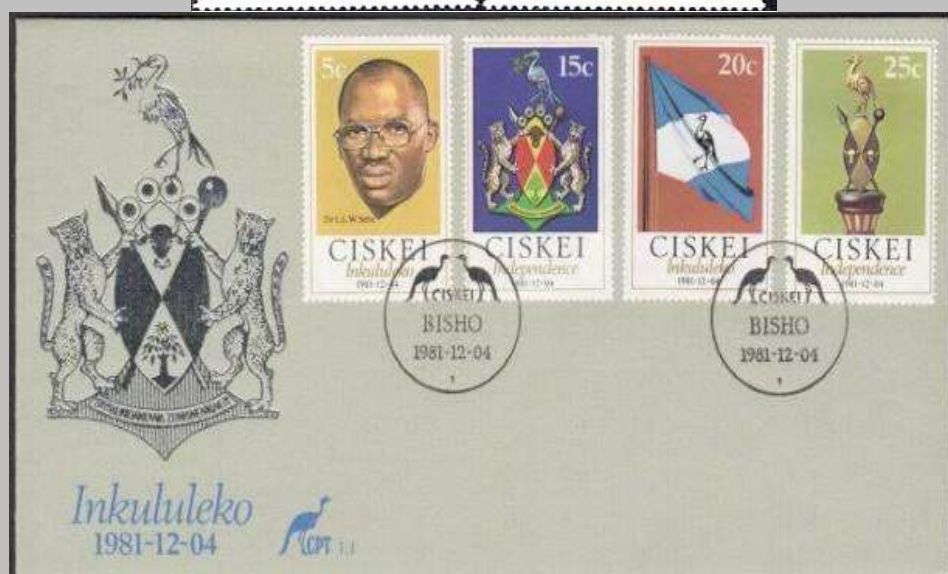
In 1986 and 1987, Transkei, a larger, wealthier, and more populous entity, undertook a series of military raids on Ciskei. However, during a later meeting of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, it was revealed that the plan to amalgamate the Transkei and Ciskei into a proposed *Xhosaland*, as well as the freeing of Charles Sebe from prison, had been carried out by South African security forces linked to the Civil Cooperation Bureau, in order to consolidate an anti-ANC movement.

On 27 April 1994, Ciskei and all of the other homelands were reincorporated into South Africa, after the first post-apartheid elections. Along with Transkei, Ciskei became part of the new Eastern Cape Province.

Ciskei produced a total of 50 stamp issues from 1981 to 1994.



Ciskei's stamps began with the 1981 "Independence" issue.



TRANSKEI

Transkei was declared a “Republic” in 1976, although it had been given nominal autonomy in 1963. Like Ciskei it remained an unrecognized state for 1976 to 1994, when Apartheid collapsed.

The United Nations Security Council supported moves not to recognise Transkei, and, in Resolution 402 (1976), condemned moves by South Africa to pressure neighbouring Lesotho to recognise Transkei by closing its borders with the country.



Transkei was the first Bantustan to produce its own stamps. That happened straight after the “republic” achieved “Independence” in 1976.

In the period up till the dismantling of Apartheid in South Africa and the abandonment of this Bantustan in 1994, Transkei produced 60 sets of stamps. They had no Universal Postal Union status but were generally accepted for International mail. The Transkei Postal Service continued with RSA adhesives until June 1996 when it was fully incorporated into the RSA system.

Transkei produced 60 stamp issues from 1976 to 1994



Transkei Independence stamp set of 1976

The Stamps of Transkei 1981



Stamp from the 1984 Post Offices issue

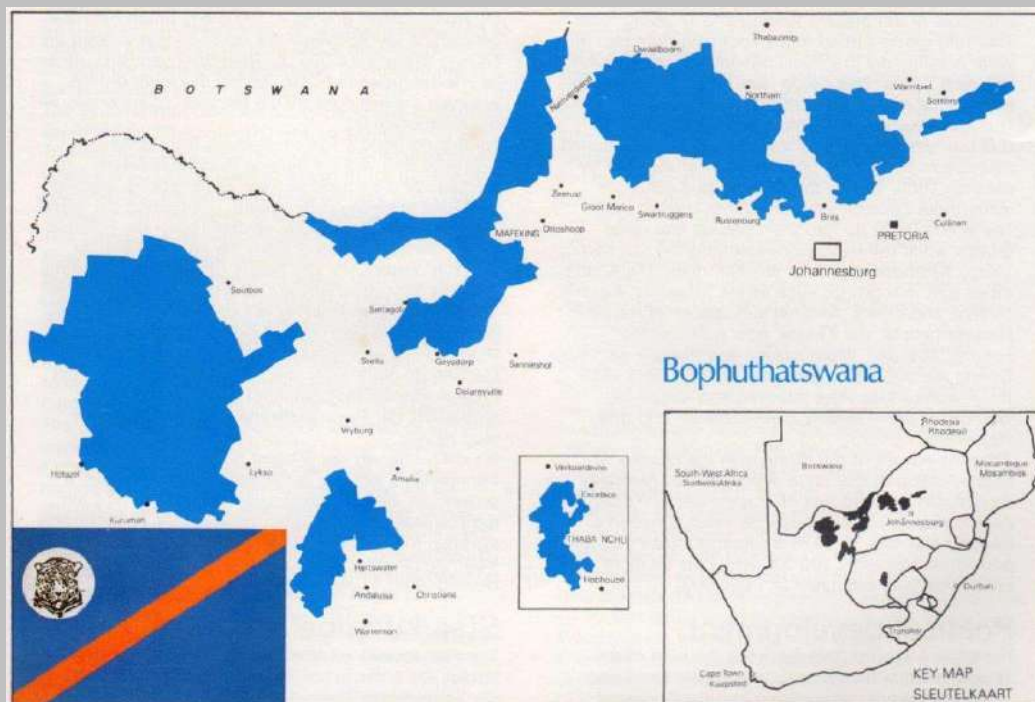
BOTHUTHATSWANA

The “Republic” of Bophuthatswana was seen as a home-land for the Tswana peoples.

It received its independence on 6th December 1977. Both the “Republic” and its postage stamps expired in 1994, when Nelson Mandela was elected.

Bophuthatswana's application to the U.N. to be declared an independent state outside the rule of South Africa was turned down in 1986.

Lucas Mangope became the first Prime Minister of Bophuthatswana in 1972, and retained the position until independence in 1977 after which he was appointed as the first President of the country. He remained in this position until 1994, when the country was reincorporated into South Africa. On 10 February 1988 Rocky Malabane-Metsing became the President of Bophuthatswana for a day when he took over government through a military coup. The situation was quickly reversed by the following day by the intervention of the South African government and Defence Force, and Mangope continued his presidency.



In 1977, 75 autonomous tribes comprised the Tswana nation of Bophuthatswana. The population of this not-contiguous “Republic” totalled 2,100,000 while the de facto population was estimated at 1,036,000.

Bophuthatswana produced a massive 71 stamp issues from 1977 to 1994.



Independence Day stamps of 6th December 1977



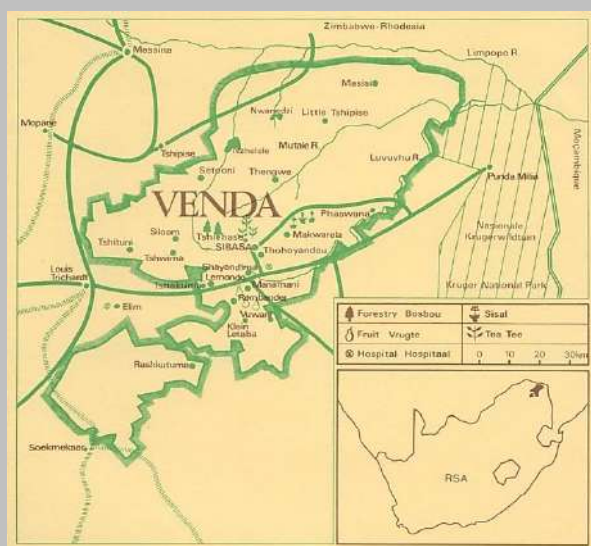
Sorghum Beer-making stamp issue of 1980

VENDA

The Venda Bantustan received its “independence” from South Africa on 13th September 1979.

Unlike some of the other larger ethnic groups of Southern Africa, the Venda Republic constituted a well-defined homogeneous entity. They are linguistically related to the Shona tribes of Zimbabwe Rhodesia and the Sotho of the Northern Transvaal. The Venda people were to a large extent self-sufficient in food production and also possessed their own pre-European settlement iron industry. Incentives for seeking contact with neighbours, who tended to be hostile, were lacking principally because of the country's precipitous mountainous terrain.

Venda produced its own stamps from 1979 to 1994.



The 1970 census indicated that Venda a population of 358 000.

The Venda ‘nation’ was a small area on South Africa’s northern border. It comprised 27 tribes under the authority of 27 chiefs, who also represent a number of dynasties. These dynasties have traditionally cooperated with one another and have helped to cement Venda unity.



Venda's first stamp issue of 1979



The Banana Growing issue of 1980

Venda produced 60 stamp issues from 1979 to 1994.

Your editor's personal opinion: -

Your editor absolutely refused to have nothing to do with these Bantustan stamp issues in the years when they were being issued. Although none of the stamp issues were themselves overtly political, they were a manifestation of the unequal and sometimes forceful separation of racial groups in South Africa. Apartheid was detestable.

Another minor issue was that many of the Bantustan stamp issues look to have been produced in quantities well above normal postal requirements. And there were a lot of stamp issues. I have estimated a total of about 240 between 1976 and 1994 – perhaps 1300 stamps. Finding postally used stamps was always going to be hard.

However, all of those issues are now “historical”. Apartheid has gone away. The stamps though are still around. But if we put them in their historical context it's probably now worth revisiting them & collecting them again as South African local issues.

We have the same problem with stamps from Nazi Germany, especially all those mugshots of Hitler. We need to hate him too. We absolutely can't advocate Nazism and use these stamps to glorify him or his onerous regime. That's now illegal anyway. But they are part of the complex history of the German nation.

If we display them we need to put them in their correct historical context. They are an artefact of Germany at that time in history.

We need to ensure that they are displayed publicly in a way that gives no offence to any viewer. There are still a lot of people out there whose families had a very bad outcomes from World War II. My own family, for instance, had bad experiences doing forced labour in Germany.

ALDERSHOT, QUEENSLAND: A SMALL TOWN BUILT AROUND A SMELTER

This story started with a barred numeral obliterator “504” Aldershot, just northwest of Maryborough:-

ALDERSHOT TYPE 2b, “504” BARRED NUMERAL OBLITERATOR

Manning (2009) records the use of a Type 2b (6.5mm) “504” barred numeral obliterator at Aldershot from 1892. He gave it an “RR” rarity rating.



Above, an impression of the Type 2b "504" barred numeral obliterator of Aldershot cancels a 1d vermilion Queen Victoria '4 corners' (Crown over 'Q' watermark, perf 12½) stamp of 1897, on a small piece.

Aldershot is 11km west-north-west of Maryborough. It's on the Bruce Highway. The North Coast railway extension north of Maryborough to Gladstone opened to Aldershot on 30th March 1883. A Telegraph Office opened at the Aldershot Railway Station on 14th August 1891. A year later, the Aldershot post office opened there on 1st September 1892.



An image from Manning (2011) of the type 3c Aldershot circular date-stamp of 7 SE 04. He gave it an “RRRR” rarity rating with recorded usage from SE 22 04 to OC18 05.

When the smelter closed – it was the town's only industry - the Post Office was reduced to a Receiving office on 1st July 1906. Even that closed in the early early-1920's when virtually everybody had left.

The Aldershot Railway Station was on a once isolated section of a section of the North Coast Railway, just 11km west-north-west of Maryborough. The railway didn't reach Cairns until 1924.

The Burrum Coal-field, only 19km north of Aldershot, was centred on the towns of Howard and Torbanlea. It ran beneath this new railway extension. Coal was first been discovered there in 1864. Mining commenced in 1866. Burrum coal ended up fuelling the local sugar mills, railway engines and all foundries right around Maryborough. The last coal mine only closed in 1997.

A separate branch line running north from Maryborough to Pialba in what is now Wide Bay, also opened on 18th December 1896. This also crossed the Burrum Coal-field and a number of collieries opened up there too.

Earlier, in 1883, capitalists from the state of Victoria visited the Wide Bay area, just north of Maryborough, to purchase land for coal mining at Burrum. They also, planned to construct a railway or tramway to Hervey Bay, where they would construct coal wharves. On the bay, it would be possible to provide a deep water berth for larger ships, which was necessary for coal to be exported intrastate, interstate and overseas. Burrum coal was cited as an alternative to Newcastle coal for industry in Victoria where coal was unavailable and required importing. But it didn't happen as the Pialba branch railway didn't open until 1896.

In the late 1880's, there was a perceived lack of smelting facilities in Queensland for a range of metalliferous ores, not just gold but copper and lead. A British company decided to construct a smelter to treat auriferous sulphide ores and base metal concentrates from Queensland mines.

They floated the Queensland Smelting Company Limited.

The Company thought that their advantage was its proximity to the Burrum Coal-field. They planned to bore for coal immediately. Smelting one tonne of copper ore requires five tonnes of coal.

A dam was built, and a branch railway from Aldershot railway station into the proposed smelting works was surveyed and the constructed. The new town of Aldershot was surveyed. Smelting operation finally commenced at Aldershot in 1890.



...THE

Queensland Smelting Co., LIMITED.

HIGHEST PRICES PAID FOR
AURIFEROUS CONCENTRATES
AND PYRITES.



Aldershot Smelting Works, Maryborough, Queensland.

Buyers and Smelters of . . .

Also of . . .
CYANIDE SLAGS.

Gold, Silver, Lead Copper and other Ores

....

SPECIAL RATES GIVEN FOR ARGENTIFEROUS LEAD ORES
IN QUANTITIES.

SAMPLING AND PURCHASING DEPOTS AND AGENCIES AT MEL-
BOURNE, ZEEHAN, AND EMU BAY, TASMANIA,
UNDER COMPETENT ASSAYERS.

....

Works: Aldershot, Queensland.

For Tariffs and Full Particulars, apply at the Works, Aldershot, Maryborough, Qld.,
and all Agencies. MELBOURNE AGENCY: 33 Market Street.

Registered Head Office:
14 OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

W. H. CLARK, Local Secretary.
T. J. DYASON, Manager.

Throughout much of its life, the Queensland Smelting Company found it difficult to maintain the steady flow of ore to make its custom smelter consistently profitable. Queensland mining companies with the largest productions, like Mount Morgan, Chillagoe and Mount Perry, each had their own private smelters and took business away from Aldershot. A lot of their ore came from Far North Queensland.

The other problem was the very severe financial depression in the 1890's.

So in September 1898 the Queensland Smelting Company Limited went into liquidation. It was taken over by a new Queensland Smelting Company which was formed and registered on 3 January 1899 with a nominal capital of £50,000 divided into £1 shares.

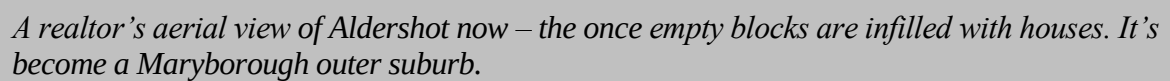
Following the firing up of the Chillagoe smelters, west of Cairns, in 1901, one of the Queensland Smelting Company's Aldershot's main suppliers of ore was cut off. The Company was then only able to operate the works by arranging to purchase ores from mines at Ravenswood, west of Townsville and from small operations around Queensland. An additional furnace was added in 1905 to deal with these complex ores.

Newcastle coal could be landed at Pialba and Urangan at a cheaper price than coal from the Burrum Coal-field.

By 1906 the smelters were unprofitable. Operations ceased in March, and the debenture holders took possession on 7th April 1908, disposing of saleable building. Everything was carted away. The town of Aldershot was abandoned.

Over the years the smelter site became overgrown and was fenced off. The abandoned Aldershot township was rejuvenated in the 1970s. It has become a suburb of Maryborough. Because the village had been surveyed and allotments sold to newcomers. The population in 2016 had moved up to 1,311.

The Post Office never returned. There's not even a red posting box



YARRARA, New South Wales

Some pages about Yarrara were passed around at the July Club meeting were about Yarrara. They showed its Type 4B, “1748” obliterator. It’s a locality for which it’s hard to find anything much about. A search couldn’t find any photo images.

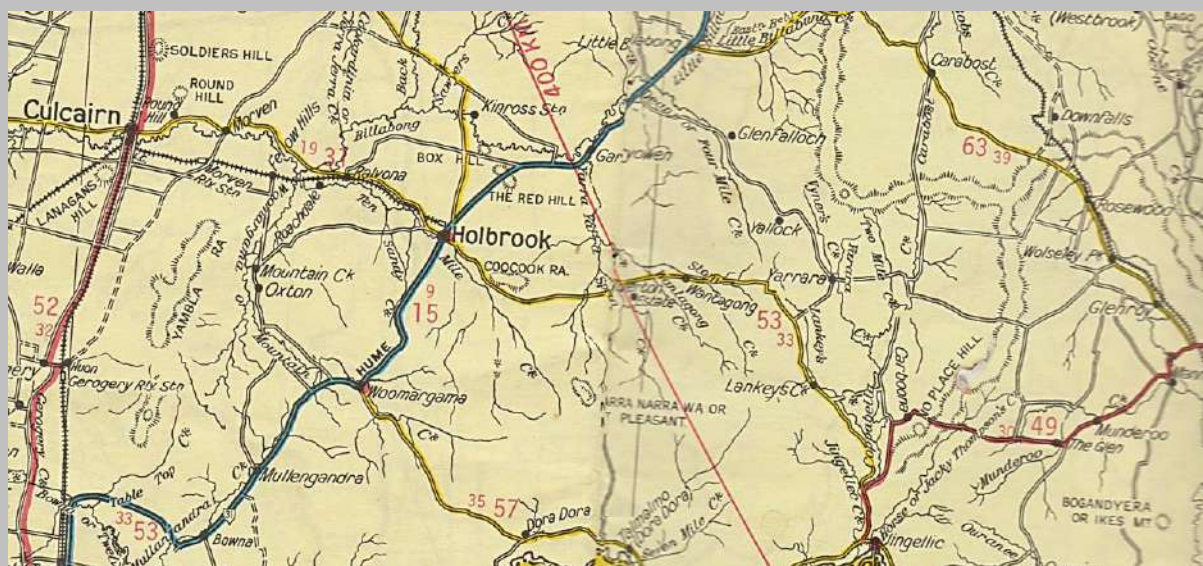
YARRARA TYPE 4B, “1748” BARRED NUMERAL OBLITERATOR

Manning (2012) records the use of a Type 4B, “1748” barred numeral obliterator at Yarrara. He gave it an “SS” rarity rating.



Above, an poor, but still discernible impression of the Type 4B, "1748" barred numeral obliterator, cancels a 1d salmon-red New South Wales Shield (Die II, Crown over "NSW" watermark, perf 12 x 11½) stamp of June 1897.

Yarrara is no longer a registered rural locality. Now it’s just a sheep and cattle grazing area 35km east of Holbrook and just north of Lankey’s Creek. The land has been largely cleared for grazing, while some has been used for pine plantations.



But it was formerly the Yarrara Gold-field.

Reef gold was first discovered in 1873 and mining occurred at various times between 1873 and the 1930s, mostly from four mines: - the *Perseverance*; *Rangitira*, *Just in Time*, and *Billabong* mines. Henry Palmer discovered the Perseverance Reef on the 25 March 1873 and sold his find to Messrs J. Day and K. McLennan. By 1875 this group had erected a stamp battery and had produced 1,350 oz of gold.

A small settlement developed at Yarrara and the population reached 200-300. It quickly dwindling when most of the surrounding reefs were abandoned on reaching the depth of the water table at about 30 to 70m. There is now no trace of this former town.

North of Yarrara, the Billabong Reefs, were discovered by J.J. Riley and E Tunbridge in 1909. Various groups and companies attempted to work this area, but recorded production was a mere 131 oz. In 1932 there was an attempt to work the Billabong mine as an open cut. Total recorded gold production from the Yarrara field was about 26 000 oz. from depths less than 70 m.

Postal services began when the Yarrara Reefs Receiving Office opened on 1st December 1874. It changed name to the Yarrara Receiving Office on 21st March 1878. It was upgraded to a Post Office on 1st February 1895 (with Mrs A Morgan as postmistress. It closed on 16th October 1905.

In the 1890's, Yarrara got two mail deliveries a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays by horseback from Holbrook (prior to WWI it was called Germanton).

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