

Hi all,

It's getting chillier out here in Bathurst and Oberon (where I work) so we are getting into weather more conducive to philatelic endeavours, when there is no reasonable excuse to be outside at 7:30pm. Of course, many of you will say it's always colder in those locations so I have no excuses ever ... admittedly, there are some advantages to living in the Central West.



A very successful Sydney Stamp & Coin Expo has just ended with all those who were able to get there, including the dealers involved, talking positively about the event. Yes, there were one or two things to be learned, minor hiccups that didn't detract from the overall experience, which will be factored into the planning for the next national stamp show in Sydney, expected in 2029. It's interesting to note that the 570+ frames on display compares more than favourably with the size of national exhibitions in most parts of the world. The Best in Show Award went to Geoff Lewis's exhibit on oceanic postal routes during the period 1700 - 1870. The Australasian Challenge, a philatelic event which pits teams from most Australian states and territories and New Zealand against each other was won by the NSW team of Wayne Donaldson, John Bozic, Vivian Manwaring and Darren Jones. Thanks to all those who contributed to the exhibition's success, particularly Phil Green and the volunteers.

Prior to the Sydney show I attended the Royalfex exhibition in New Zealand, also 500+ frames, where I was an exhibitor. The Australian contingent exhibiting there did very well. The NSW team in the Royal Challenge that took place put up a good showing although that competition was won by the team from the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

In terms of what is happening at Philas, there are three key focus areas at present.

1. Philas Auction

A late June auction, where there will be close to 1,400 lots available. The lots will be split into two parts: a postal bidding only group of lots and an in-room & online bidding group. Details of the auction will be available soon on the Philas website. Anyone who has skills scanning material and is prepared to volunteer a bit of time would be most welcome at Philas on Tuesday or Saturday to help with that aspect of auction preparation, whilst we will also be looking for people willing to observe and support viewing of auction lots closer to the date. If you think this is something you might be able to do, please contact Michael Nibbs (auction@philas.org.au).

2. Finding a New Home

The decision to move has been made, so we won't be relitigating it. The Executive is now focused on securing a new centre that meets the needs of **all** Philas members and activities.

Commercial real estate prices have risen nearly 10% in the past six months, which is both a blessing and a challenge. On the positive side, the Silverwater property is likely to sell for more than expected, and multiple agents are eager to manage the sale or bring clients through. However, a rising market also means we will need to pay more for a new property. That said, there are good opportunities available, and we are conducting due diligence on several promising options.

3. Philas Corporation Application

The application to register as a corporation has been lodged with ASIC and we are waiting on an outcome.

When we are set-up and running again, I am keen that we host an open day which includes the club competition that was championed for so many years by the late "Fred" Grech. I challenge you as a club or an individual to start thinking about what you have that might be an interesting exhibit to show us and start putting it together. And don't worry about the fact you have never exhibited before because Philas is in the throes of establishing an exhibitor education sub-committee to provide tips and guidance on exhibiting successfully. As part of their efforts the Philas website will be hosting a number of presentations on various aspects of exhibiting which will range in suitability from beginner to gold medallist quality, so watch this space.

Thats it for now. Stay healthy and don't hesitate to get in touch if you want to chat about anything. I currently answer the Philas phone (02) 9264 8301 and am happy to hear from you.

Bruce Chadderton