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Web Site

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THE NEXT MEETING of the Wagga Stamp Club (Inc.) will be held at the ARCC hall
in Tarcutta Street on **Wednesday 4th March**, 2026, commencing at **7.30p.m**

THIS MEETING: AGM and Small Auction

2026 Calendar

Mar 4	AGM & Small Auction
Mar 28	ARCC Open Day
April 1	Large Auction
April 4	Stamp & Coin Market by club members at ARCC Hall, 131 Tarcutta Street. 9am until 3pm. Free admission
May 6	Presentation by David Blackman – Royalty stamps update
May 16/17	Stamp & Coin Fair. Seven dealers. Sturt Public School, White Avenue, Koorimal.
June 3	Presentation by Harry Smith – “My Coin Collection”
July 1	Large Auction
August 29	Stamp & Coin Market by club members at ARCC Hall, 131 Tarcutta Street. 9am until 3pm. Free admission
Nov 21/22	Stamp & Coin Fair. Seven dealers. Sturt Public School, White Avenue, Koorimal.

Enquiries for all events Phone 0488 081 933

1947 NEWCASTLE SESQUICENTENARY DESIGN ERROR by Richard Breckon (abridged by editor).

Of all the errors that have been made in stamp designs, Australia's depiction of the wrong man on the 2½d Newcastle sesquicentenary stamp in 1947 must be one of the most outstanding. To feature the wrong person in a stamp design that is wholly occupied by the portrait is about as total a mistake as could be expected. Errors in stamp designs are particularly embarrassing to the authorities concerned since the mistakes are permanent – generations of collectors remember them.

The 2½d Newcastle stamp was intended to feature Lieutenant John Shortland (1769-1810) who in 1797 explored the present site of Newcastle. He was on his way north of Sydney in pursuit of runaway convicts and entered the estuary of the Hunter River, where he collected samples of coal. In a letter to his father he predicted that this discovery would be "a great acquisition to the settlement".



In 1947, Mr John Shortland of Sydney, a descendant of Lt. John Shortland, noticed that the stamp portrait illustrated in press announcements of the forthcoming stamp issue was that of John Shortland senior, Lt Shortland's father (*pic at left*). This took place in the week before the release of the stamps and in the circumstances, there was nothing the Post Office could do to correct the error. The Postmaster General, Senator Donald Cameron, stated that he did not agree that the portrait on the stamp is that of the wrong John Shortland, but added that if investigations now underway established that the stamp pictures the father of the founder of Newcastle, "the aim of the commemorative set would still be achieved".

The correct portrait is pictured here at the right. This portrait is of Lt. John Shortland. Confused? This is "junior"

and **the** John Shortland who explored the Newcastle district in 1797. The Father and son were both in the Royal Navy and both arrived with the First Fleet.

In the creation of the stamp, it appears that the researcher utilised the Mitchell Library and used the "*Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay*" published in 1789, which had the portrait of Lt. John Shortland Senior, as the source. Without seeking confirmation if the first seen portrait was the correct one the post office bureaucrat thought that selecting the subject for a stamp design was simply looking up the first book on the subject to be found and accepting it as accurate.

Hence, the creation of Australia's most extraordinary stamp design error.



FROM THE PRESIDENT / EDITOR

Another year is coming to a close, so I would like to thank all those that have contributed to our Club in any way. And also, thank you to all those that supplied articles for the newsletter.

A special thanks to our secretary Peter for another year keeping the Club running in a smooth and functional manner.

All in all, I think, and I hope you all agree, we had a successful year, with the passing of Neil Dallinger the only sombre occasion.

JANUARY AUCTION REPORT: Eight vendors submitted 60 lots for auction and 38 (63%) sold to ten different purchasers for a total of \$365.40.

Top stamp price was \$26 for a 1d red KGV sideface and a one pound note sold for \$43.

SAVE THE DATE:

At our 1st April meeting Peter Simpfendorfer will be receiving the Stanley Griffith Award at our meeting. Bruce Chadderton, PHILAS President will be presenting the award. Please be there if you can.

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In My Humble Opinion (By Gary Watson- taken from the South Pacific Perfin Bulletin)

Every field of endeavour has its own jargon. We philatelists are no different, but many of us seem to be more concerned with making a point, than making a point well.

A good instance of this is saying "Australian States" when we mean "Australian Colonies" or, more correctly "British Colonies in Australia". Colonies and States are not the same thing. For all references from the advent of European settlements in 1788 until 1st January 1901, when the six Colonies became **States** of the Commonwealth of Australia, the correct term is "colonies". This is simply a matter of historical fact.

New South Wales, Tasmania and all the rest were colonies for between 122 years (NSW) and 40 years (Queensland). They have all been “states” for the past 125 years.

The issue is exacerbated by the situation of Australia not issuing its own adhesive postage stamps until 1913. Because of the so-called “bookkeeping” provisions of the new Constitution – that made no sense to anyone apart from lawyers, accountants and politicians – from 1st January 1901 until 31st December 1912, stamps of the various States remained in use.

Because they mostly had the same designs as pre-1901 colonial issues, many/most people have failed to draw a distinction between the two periods. The term “colonies” has numerous unfortunate connotations but to call colonies “states” is to deny half of our European history.

This may all seem to be pedantry of the highest order. Who really cares? Well, for one, exhibition judges. Or at least they should. One of the key judging criteria is “philatelic knowledge”. If the exhibitor ignores or blurs the historical distinction between “Colony” and “State”, that reflects a lack of knowledge. If that impacts on his or her discussion of a series of stamps, that shows a clear lack of philatelic knowledge.

The most obvious example is naming a display “The Stamps of the State of Victoria”, which sounds full of gravitas, and then displaying Half-Lengths, Postal Fiscals and Charity stamps that were all issued during the colonial period.

I suppose it's naïve of me to expect that everyone will adopt my suggestion for a clear distinction between Colonies and States. But, as an eternal optimist, I can live in hope.

If you have reached the end, thank you for at least reading my muted polemic.

"I showed these two stamps during Show & Tell at the January meeting. I had not seen the brown stamp previously and enquired from John Kilpatrick of Kadine Stamps in New Zealand. He advised it is known as the "Rotorua shade" and is caused by sulfur in the atmosphere that results in oxidation of the ink. Interesting!"



Alcoholism
You can beat it!
USA 18c

In 1981 the US Post Office issued an anti-alcoholism stamp that said “Alcoholism You can beat it”.

Though well intentioned, it was a huge flop mainly because it could look like the sender was sending a specific message to the recipient.

