

PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLING

Official Journal of Papuan Philatelic Society

* The font used in the banner is inspired by the corporate letterhead used by Burns Philp & Company Limited, a trading and shipping company whose history is intimately intertwined with PNG and the wider Pacific region.

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The Sepik Haus Tambaran
Orator's Stool*

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Chairman's Report

Dear PPS members,

I am back from a 4-month sabbatical after surgery and would like to thank all the members for their well wishes. And let me add a special thanks to all on the executive for holding the fort while I was laid up.

I would like to make note that we have had several new members join between November and February and extend a big welcome to all of them.

Planning is well underway for the next National Papuan Philatelic Society meeting to be held in Queensland. At this time a tentative date of the 12th of May has been chosen and we will be asking for attendance numbers from members over the next few weeks.

We will also hold the AGM in the morning just prior to kicking off a day of great guest speakers and displays.

We will have several special guests including Gary Watson to discuss the future of philatelic auction houses and talk about their new company, Abacus Auctions, and how it is different from the old days.

Richard Muller will also outline how the new website is going and talk about the new-look Papua New Guinea Calling Journal which is well under development now. I have seen a draft and can say that I am very excited about it and hope all members will be as well.

Please also remember to get behind Frank Wilson's auctions that he painstakingly spends 100's of hours arranging. Remember that a portion of the sales is passed back to the PPS for use on future development of our society.

Anyone wishing to attend the AGM is very welcome and encouraged to do so. All details will be circulated by Ted McPheat over the next few weeks.

Cheers! Mark (Robbo) Robinson
PPS Chairman (Australia)



Chairman's symbol:
A 1930s Sepik
Orator's Stool (Teket)*.
Museum of Victoria

PAPUAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Papuan Philatelic Society (PPS) membership is open to anyone who collects or has an interest in the stamps and postal history of 'Papua New Guinea'. The PPS covers all periods from the early days of British New Guinea (later Papua) and German New Guinea in the 1880's, to modern PNG with its many colourful stamps and cards. The membership is international with links in Australia, USA, UK & Europe, New Zealand and PNG itself. It is one of the strongest and most active philatelic societies.

MEMBERSHIP? Simply contact: papuanphilatelicsociety@gmail.com



NEW PNG 2014 OVERPRINTED STAMP DISCOVERED

By Philip Mullins

In early 2014 Post PNG needed to increase stocks of their 1.30K local rate postage stamps by revaluing and overprinting obsolete 1.20K stamps. At this time 5 and 10 toea stamps that were being used to make up the new postage rate had been exhausted by some Post Offices, so a decision was made to surcharge stamps. However it has now come to light that the 2008 85toea Bird of Paradise was also overprinted making a total of **11** different overprints discovered to date with the K1.30 overprinting.

These 2014 K1.30 overprinted stamps were each individually overprinted in very small quantities of 50 sheets each having 25 stamps, a mere **1250 per stamp**.

A good deal has been written in the US Philatelic world by Steven Zirinsky about this issue and also the **2014 High Value overprints** of which there are now **16** known with issue quantities of a tiny **500 of each stamp printed**, but very little in the Australia Philatelic Press which is surprising.

Because the issue numbers were so small PNG Post appears not to have involved the Philatelic Bureau and to me this was a vindication of my assertions with the 1994 emergency overprints some 20 years earlier as the two departments sometimes seem to work independently there.

A close collecting friend was informed in 2015 of these overprints and immediately contacted the Bureau and placed an order for particular overprinted varieties. However apparently some issues were no longer available, so to his good luck the PNG Bureau sent him with his order this most recent discovery, to make up for the stamps they were unable to supply. When he received these he immediately contacted the Bu-

reau and asked where this unknown stamp had come from and they informed him it had been returned from a smaller Post Office for credit as they no longer required them. This is common practice in the PNG Post and I often found very old stamps in PNG Post Offices that would have to be returned as they served no current postage rates. I know my friend then contacted Steven Zirinsky who had been writing excellent articles about these issues in the US Linn's Stamp News Weekly. He was intrigued at this new discovery but queried their possible authenticity, however it was explained that this stamp had indeed been included in an order direct from the PNG Philatelic Bureau.

I must state here that I have absolutely no vested interest in these stamps as while I knew of their issue in 2015, I have recently put my Philatelic interests on hold due to poor health.

I assume because of the tiny issue numbers that few if any dealers in Australia or for that matter the world will have stocks of these issues.

This raises similar questions to the ones asked with the PNG 1994 emergency stamp issues which had far higher issue quantities than the ones shown above.

Will they be listed in stamp catalogues? as these stamps were an official issue by PNG Post.

Are we likely to see forgeries as we did with the PNG emergency overprints?

I know this lucky PNG stamp collector has also had the PNG Bureau postmark and send him some letters using these 2014 overprinted stamps to show they recognised their authenticity.

As a stamp collector myself, I will watch with interest the developments regarding the most recent PNG overprint issues.



FOUND: A HOARD OF NEW GUINEA STAMPS Untouched for 90 years (Part 1)

■ By Phillip Blakeney – Australia ■

Garage sales are becoming scarcer and scarcer: killed by community buy, swap and sell 'net sites. This is a shame as one of the joys of garage sale-ing is the thrill of the chase, something that will resonate with stamp collectors!

I am a record collector, and a lapsed postal stationery specialist and I always dream of unearthing a treasure trove at a garage sale. Well: earlier this year, I finally did!

An unassuming plastic bag had been sitting for over three hours until I came along, at a northern Sydney Garage Sale marked "Old matchbox labels and stamps" (I won't tell you the price!). I looked at the banged-up album of matchbox labels and thought they were interesting but in poor condition and, without really looking at the stamps I nearly walked away. However, after a bit of haggling I took it home and didn't look at the baggie again for weeks. When I finally did, I realised I had hit the jackpot!

Inside were 60 NWPI overprint stamps - half with OS punctures- and literally hundreds of New Guinea Huts. Everything was low face value (so no 1 pound stamps), but they were all roughly torn 'on piece' with postmarks generally complete. Now, as a lapsed philatelist I knew enough to know this was something special, but with nowhere near enough knowledge to assess what was important in this specialty.

The Dutch East India Company first claimed sovereignty over unexplored New Guinea island in 1660. Eventually the British East India Company became interested in the Eastern half of the island. In September 1884 when Britain announced they intended to claim part of New Guinea, the Germans

quickly raised the flag on the North Coast – an arbitrary line was drawn east-west through the "uninhabited" Highlands between German and British New Guinea.

In the 1870s German traders and planters also settled in New Ireland and New Britain including Blanche Bay – the location of Rabaul. Further east Bougainville and Buka Islands were part of British Solomon Islands until traded to Germany in 1898.

In 1906 British New Guinea became the Territory of Papua. When WW1 broke out in 1914, Australian troops quickly overran the German headquarters at Rabaul, and for the next seven years German

Comment

A few weeks ago, I bought on eBay a number of used Native Huts Issue stamps on piece with interesting postmarks. They were different to most pieces, as they had been crudely torn off their cover. To ensure they were not fakes, I asked the seller for their background.

Phillip told me the story and I suggested he write this article for PNG Calling, even though he was not a member of the PPS. To assist I helped, with the expert assistance of Andrew Loughran, to ensure that the information provided about each individual postmark was both factual and current.

Phillip sells as **reuters12xu** on eBay. I am sure 'the hoard' will begin to appear in the not too distant future.

John Rayward – Australia



Figure 1: Rabaul Harbour, the line of trees running through the photo is Malaguna Road

New Guinea was run by the Australian military, until 1921 when it was officially handed over to Australia as a mandated territory. Rabaul became the provincial capital.

Copra, rubber, coffee and cocoa were the main earners particularly on New Britain island. The 'mainland' saw men and wealth come to the 'mainland' north coast with the discovery of gold at Edie Creek and the Bulolo Valley in the 1920s.

Rabaul boasts one of the finest harbours in the Pacific, however it sits on a volcanic timebomb. See Figure 1 (above).

Earthquakes shake New Britain almost daily and the harbor is a huge caldera ringed by active volcanoes. One of the most devastating volcanic events occurred a mere 1,400 years ago with an estimated 10 cubic kilometres of magma and debris from the subterranean chamber. Everyone was killed within 30km and the

collapse chamber flooded with seawater to form Blanche Bay.

The tropical climate resulted in rapid revegetation and native islanders eventually returned to the area.

Nothing changed New Britain like the humble coconut, and German companies perfected methods of processing the meat, and plantations and resultant shipping exploded. By 1910 the provincial government had shifted from Kopoko on the eastern shore of the Gazelle Peninsula (originally established near the Catholic Mission at Vanapope, but with an inadequate harbor) northwards to Rabaul with its superb anchorage.

The postal history juices were starting to flow, and I had two tasks-

- finding who was responsible for collecting this collection hereafter called the "hoard"; and

- finding what information was available on the workings of the post offices in Rabaul and New Guinea between the Wars.

There were two main candidates for the original collector of this material:

Unfortunately, the stamps were not left on cover (imagine finding *that* if they had been!), There were several clues to the provenance of the material from the pieces. Some were addressed



Figure 2



Figure 3: Rabaul Times building photo – source Warren Young, *Rabaul: Jewel of the Pacific* at <http://www.xlibris.com/bookstore/bookdetail.aspx?bookid=SKU-001070309>

to a “H.W. Hamilton” at “The Rabaul Times”, and there were a couple to the “Government Printer” addresses. Figure 2 (see previous page) shows a cple of these fragments.

After a bit of googling, it turns out that Harry William Hamilton was Government Printer in Rabaul, and connected to the *Rabaul Times* newspaper.

The *Papuan Times and Tropical Advertiser* was the first newspaper in Papua, set up in Port Moresby in 1910 by former Government Printer E.G. Baker- with a potential audience of only 1000 Europeans in the whole of Pap-

ua: its circulation was never more than 200, and it closed in 1917. The weekly *Papuan Courier* appeared in 1918 (and was eventually shut down in 1942 after criticizing the activities of Australian troops in the town).

In the Territory of New Guinea after Australia captured German New Guinea in 1914, a garrison news sheet (the *Rabaul Record*) was published from 1915 to 1918. The *Rabaul Times* newspaper published its first issue on April 1925.

H.W. Hamilton was “the founder and proprietor” of this newspaper. Figure 3 (see above) shows the *Rabaul Times* in the 1920s.

Hamilton died October 16, 1927, in Melbourne Australia, aged 61 and his obituary notes he was for many years attached to the Government Printing Office NSW. He ended up attached to the Tropical Expeditionary Forces New Guinea before founding the *Rabaul Times*.

Original copies of the first three years of the paper are held in the Mitchell Library in Sydney. There is much interesting material that could form a separate article! Figure 4 (see bottom of page) shows the masthead of the first issue.

There was quite a brouhaha later in October 1927 after Hamil-



Figure 4: Masthead of first issue *Rabaul Times* newspaper



Figure 5: Rabaul PO – source Warren Young, *Rabaul: Jewel of the Pacific* at <http://www.xlibris.com/bookstore/bookdetail.aspx?bookid=-001070309>

ton's death, where an attempt was made to seize the paper from the "present management" as Harry had intended to return to Rabaul in November. The Curator of Intestate Estates at Rabaul "during a few minutes' absence" of the manager entered the machine room and ordered the removal of the imprint and addition of an insertion indicating that the paper was printed and published by the Curator of Intestate Estates. The Australian High Court set aside the action later that October with costs against the Curator.

The first postmark date I could find in the garage sale material was 14 May 1924. This was prior to the newspaper opening and indicates "Government Printer" mail. There were many postmarks through to June 1927. This correlates closely with Hamilton's period at the newspaper. It might be expected, given Hamilton's death in 1927, that that would be the last date for material. However, there is also some other material from Rabaul

in 1930 and some other material afterwards through to the 1960s.

The later New Guinea material points to it not being Hamilton's hoard as there seems no family or business connection in Rabaul after his death.

The other candidate was the inaugural editor of the *Times*, who was Gordon Thomas, editor from 1925-27 and 1933-42. Presumably Thomas' first editorship ended when the new management took over when Hamilton went to Melbourne.

Thomas had an abrupt end to his second stint as editor of the *Times* when the Japanese invaded Rabaul in January 1942. 300 European citizens were captured. All but half a dozen of these were removed from Rabaul in the *Montevideo Maru*, which was sunk with all hands before reaching her destination, Japan. Thomas was one of the few Europeans who was kept back by the Japanese as prisoners of war - to work as a roustabout at the Freezer Works in Rabaul. He died in

Sydney in 1966.

Thomas' book *Prisoner in Rabaul - Civilians in Captivity 1942-1945* (eventually published in 2012 long after his death) says: "I discovered that all my office records, manuscripts, books of reference and stamp collection preserved for over thirty years of residence in New Guinea, had all been destroyed in a big bonfire. When I heard this news I could have cried. The carefully guarded treasures of my lifetime gone up in smoke, irreplaceable information and carefully-combined records of New Guinea history lost!" (pp 63-64)

Thomas' wife Kate did leave Rabaul before the Japanese invasion, but given Gordon was the collector I doubt his stamps survived. Perhaps this hoard was merely his "duplicates" and ended up with someone else. It currently remains a mystery as I have been unable to contact the original garage sale holder.

TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE

NEW PNG K15 HIGH VALUE OVERPRINT STAMP

By Philip Mullins

Following my last story on the discovery of the 2014 K1.30 overprint on the 2008 85t Bird of Paradise, I have been sent further details of another new discovery adding to the list of 2014 **High Value overprinted stamps** which now totals 17.

The new stamp is the K1.20 spotted cuscus overprinted with K15 as shown below left (see figure 1).

This stamp was most definitely sourced from

the PNG Philatelic Bureau by an Australian collector when placing an order from the Bureau for other stamps in the series.

I can only assume the issue quantity is the same as the other K15 overprints, a tiny 1250 stamps.

I find it interesting that the stamp shown below right (see figure 2), was also overprinted with the K1.30 rate as this was an even smaller overprint run of just 500 stamps.



Figure 1



Figure 2

This K15 stamp was required by Post PNG for two postal rates.

1. Local rate for parcels 215-500gms
2. Overseas rate for letters 51-500gms

Other stamps overprinted with K15 were:

1. 2011 K1.05 Urban Safety and Crime Prevention
2. 2009 85t Black Bellied Bat 3. 2009 K3.70 Beach Kalofilum.

The K3.70 Beach Kalofilum was also overprinted with a Higher Value of K40 as this rate was required for overseas parcels with a weight of 251-500gms.

I notice this collector has had this new discovery verified recently by the Bureau, asking them to postmark and send the stamp on mail to him (see figure 3).

While I have known of these overprint issues for sometime I have been reluctant to write about them too early, as I felt more stamps may come to light as happened with the 1994/95 Emergency overprints. Post PNG then and now overprinted stamps purely out of postal needs and due to timing and financial constraints used old rate stamps.

It should always be remembered that Post PNG will put the urgent needs of their postal

system ahead of overseas collectors and dealers. This I know does not please everyone but they are trading in a very difficult business environment that is ever changing.

I remember when I lived there, the Kina was worth well over the Australian dollar and now it is down around 40 cents.

With recent changes in the PNG Government, it will not surprise me to see further postal rate changes and perhaps even more overprints will come to light.

With these tiny issue numbers I suspect used stamps, will probably be scarcer than the MNH and only time will tell the values in \$ terms of both.



Figure 3

A STUDY OF THE PNG STAMP BOOKLETS 1970-1973 (Part 3)

By Sid Dikes

Sid Dikes follows Part 2 of his study of the 1970-1973 stamp booklets of Papua New Guinea with further details on "what's out there" for the alert PNG booklet specialist

Note to readers: Figure numbers continue in sequence from Part 2

The previous booklet (SB2) sold out quickly; therefore a new 50ct. booklet was prepared. During the preparation, postage for a standard letter was increased from 5 to 7 cents; therefore the booklet was never issued. Most of the prepared booklets, which is said to have been 10,000, were destroyed, however some survived. Only a handful of such covers are reported.

Following the cancellation of the booklet (see Figure 14) a similar booklet was issued on 1st. April 1971,

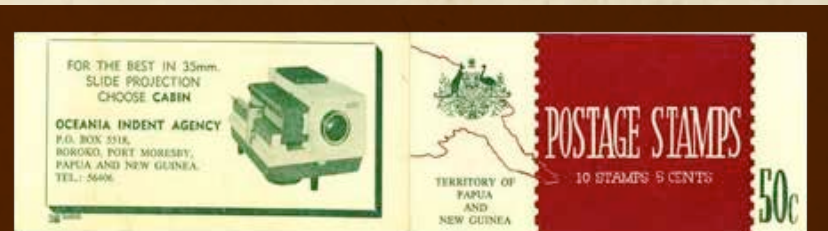


Figure 14



Figure 15

numbers stated as 72,000. A change was made to the front cover colour and, of course, the new 70ct. value added (see Figure 15).

This 70ct. booklet (see Figure 16) contains 10 x 7ct. Shell stamps Sg.141 with a selvedge both sides. Four different attaching methods are possible.

The variety at the left (see Figure 17) is found on booklets where the cover is much larger ie.125mm x 58mm, the outline of the map of PNG encroaches onto the rear cover of the booklet and the denomination section is nearly twice as wide. The normal booklet in the middle is 120mm x 55mm.



Figure 16



Figure 17

To be continued on page 10

Modern Matters

By Richard Muller – Australia

For those following new releases, we have advice from Oliver Ryan (passed on via his father, Mick) regarding the APEC 2018 UNSDG issue on December 4 (K1.50 value shown). This was followed by the PNG India joint issue on December 30. All with the usual array of sheetlets, packs, etc.

We have no information regarding the 2018 issue schedule (though at time of writing it may be somewhat early in the year – 2017 saw nothing until June and then a rush of new issues).

And, courtesy of Steve Zirinsky, we have a selection of recent PNG postmarks – including



some nice double circle cds. And a plug for Steve, you can see many others listed on his website at: www.zirinskystamps.com.



A STUDY OF THE PNG STAMP BOOKLETS 1970-1973 (Part 3)

Continued from page 9

The size of this booklet is greatly affected by guillotining. Shown in Figure 17 is 120mm x 55mm and 120mm x 60mm.

Sheet numbers are found in the left-hand sel-

vedge, with every 5th booklet being so.

This was the first issued PNG booklet to allow commercial advertising, and is in green print as follows: -



Inner front-page



Inner rear-page



Rear cover

NOTES ON THE AUSTRALIAN OCCUPATION OF GNG

By Bill Gammage – Australia

Rod Buchko's article (PNG Calling Jun-Aug 2017) focusses on earliest known uses of the metal cds Powell 22 and similar. My collection supports Rod's suggestion that these were first used about July – August 1915 rather than January – June 1915 as previously suggested, except I have Kavieng Powell 39 dated 9 JA 15 on a 2½d NWPI (SG 74), and another dated 30 JA 15 on a Marshall Isl 1d/5pg in blue, both very clear.

Re Rod's Appendix, two personal diaries give Australian dates of occupation of various German stations: Lt Clarence Hansby Read RANR, and Lt John Strasburg RNR.

Both officers were on Berrima for the occupation of Herbertshohe, Rabaul and Friedrich Wilhelmshafen (hereafter F/W), then on ships landing occupying troops at other stations. Each states that these troops were an occupying garrison, or hoisted the flag, or similar. Originals and transcripts of both are online.

Below are 1914 dates of occupation, amending some of Rod's dates.

Herbertshohe 11 Sep.

Rabaul 12 Sep. The Proclamation was next day, 13 Sep.

F/W As Rod Says, 24 Sep.

The ANMEF intended to administer the New Guinea mainland from F/W, the main station, but was obliged to garrison Eitape to regulate Bird of Paradise hunters from Dutch New Guinea, and Morobe to control Australian gold prospectors from Papua's Northern District. Finschhafen, the old German capital, was not occupied during the GRI period. Mail from these three stations, and any from Stephansort and Alexishafen (Deulon) were to be routed via F/W, though some or most Morobe mail went via Rabaul.

Eitape 4 Dec [Read on Gabriel, the captured Alexishafen mission boat]. The garrison under Capt HL Morrison set up HQ in the German post office. Unused GNG official postcards are known cancelled 3 Nov 14, possibly the last date of German use, but almost certainly done by the Australian garrison. As Rod states, other unused postcards are

known cancelled during Dec 1914, when mail was officially cancelled at F/W.

Kavieng As Rod says, 17 Oct; permanent garrison 28 Oct [Strasbourg].

Namatanai 29 Oct at 5.30pm, ex Kavieng per Meklong [Strasbourg]. The flag was hoisted next day. On 31 Oct the ship and most troops returned to Kavieng, leaving a small detachment to search for the Germans who flogged Rev WH Cox. The Germans were not arrested until 11 Nov, so the detachment may have remained until at least then.

Kieta As Rod says, 9 Dec. Ex Meklong [Strasbourg]. The ship then sailed through Buka Passage, but did not land on Buka.

Manus As Rod says, 22 Nov.

Morobe 11 Jan 15 at 9.30pm, ex Yarra [Read]. Rod states correctly that a District Officer was appointed on 5 Jan 15: this was Capt Cyril Te Hira Nelson, but he and his detachment were not landed until 11 Jan.

Civil Administration replaced the ANMEF on 9 May 1921, not 1922.



PPS AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
to be held at the
**PACIFIC RESORT CLEVELAND,
QUEENSLAND (BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA)**
SATURDAY 12 MAY 2018
commencing at 10am

AUSTRALIA NATIONAL MEETING
follows with a range of speakers and displays

Details on accommodation arrangements
and full meeting programme to be advised

PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLING

THE BACK PAGE

This is being prepared well in advance of going to press, so I can only guess how the timing will go. I hoped to have this done before leaving on a 4-week overseas trip (with limited internet access). So, if we get it done in time, great – and if not, I trust you'll understand the delay.

We had hoped to continue working with the Australian Stamp Professional magazine (now being managed by John Leah's partner). However, that proved too challenging for them so we had to part ways. We wish them all the best.

We'll also miss our involvement with John Leah. As mentioned before, he was a huge supporter of the PPS and was equally passionate about philately in general. Without question, we are all the poorer for his passing and don't we wish there were more of his type around!

Obviously, you will notice the change of design here. We are working with an outside design firm (a husband and wife team based in Melbourne) and we tried to get more the look on our website. We can amend it over time and I welcome comments and suggestions from members.

By the way, if the printed version is the first you have heard of these details, it is clearly time to register an email address so we can keep you informed. As suggested before, if you don't have an email address of your own, see about 'borrowing/sharing' one with a friend/partner/child/grandchild/etc.

And for those in Melbourne, lucky you to have such an active group (The P&NG Study Circle). After oh-so many years, Max Bulley has passed the torch of Convenor to Alan Grey (AJGrey@bigpond.com) – and lucky to have someone of Alan's knowledge and commitment to take it on. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for May 25 (Modern Papua New Guinea, Lou Smit), Aug 24 (Frank Bagatin Use of Aust Stamps+) and Nov 29 (Members night).

And the query in the last issue about P. Carnielo, a PNG stamp designer in the 1960's – answered with days by a PPS member. The range of knowledge and information 'out there' is extraordinary. And speaking of other member interests, Tony Griffin (Aust) exhibited Postal and Lettercard Development in the Austro-Hungarian Empire at Royalpex 2017 in New Zealand, last November. I'd love to hear what other areas of interest members have...

And the ever-ongoing saga of our website – specifically, the Library. It is a bit of a shambles at the moment and my main focus is trying to get the back issue file established. However, it has proven more time-consuming than I ever imagined. I have to view every file (in the 100's), re-name it, and then convert them with 2 different programs. I will get there, just maybe not in this decade.....

This issue contains a nice range of topics and even if you don't collect that area, we trust you'll find something of interest. And if not, then how about contributing something specific to your specialty? It doesn't have to be complicated or detailed, maybe an interesting/unusual/favourite item, ask a question, query something in the standard reference books, looking for a particular item, etc. Our stock of articles is pretty much bare now and it would be great to hear from some of our more 'quiet' members. Drop me a line (email address below) – even if I am out of contact for a couple of weeks I promise to get back to you.

Did you get a bid in to Frank Wilson for the auction? It was a terrific range of wonderful items – looking forward to the next one!

Cheers,
Richard
(richard@muller.id.au)