

4 NEW FACES ON PHILAS BOARD.

JOHN MOORE FROM NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY ELECTED UNOPPOSED. LIONEL SAVINS RETIRES AFTER 26 YEARS. The AGM of the Philatelic Association of NSW was held on Saturday 26 November.

Without a doubt the BIG NEWS is the retirement of Lionel Savins as President of PHILAS. Lionel was elected President in 1996. For every one of those 26 years, Lionel attended to the affairs of PHILAS with professionalism and enthusiasm. The many strengths of PHILAS found today owe much to Lionel Savins and his stewardship of PHILAS for much of its existence.

The retirement had been widely anticipated as Lionel had advised the PHILAS Executive in January this year that a search for a replacement needed to be undertaken.

Elected unopposed to the position of President was John Moore from the Newcastle Philatelic Society. John spent over 30 years working in heavy industry, much of this time in middle management positions which included managing and supervising workgroups, preparing annual budgets and liaising with customers. He has served on the Executive of the Newcastle Philatelic Society for over 30 years serving as Secretary, Vice President, and President. John is known both within Australia and internationally for his involvement with the Australian Philatelic Federation (APF). During his 18 years as an APF director John has variously held the roles of Public Relations Officer, Secretary, vice-President, President and is currently State Liaison Officer. He also holds the current project positions for Customs and Australian delegate to the F.I.P. Traditional Philately Commission.

Also elected for the first time to the PHILAS Executive was Mark Bailey (Vice President – Country) (Richmond River Philatelic Society) who also remains Publicity Officer, James Ross (Turramurra Stamp Club) and Robert Layzell (The Smithfield Stamp Club).

Re-elected to the Executive Committee was Ed Wolf (Vice President – Philatelic Development Council), Geoff Kellow (Vice President – Library) and David Collyer (Committee Member)

Barbara Hancock was also elected Secretary, a position she has held for 24 years. Peter Myers was also re-elected Treasurer, a position he has held since 2016.

The following Executive members were also re-elected: Graeme Morriss (who also takes on the role of Minute Secretary), Darren Jones (Vice President – House Committee) and Wilson Ilbery (Open Days and Club Liaison (City)). Finally, the Assistant Treasurer, John Batson rejoins the board.

In welcoming the new and returning Executive members, Ed Wolf said that this was the biggest change to the organisation since its founding 50 years ago. Mr Wolf also praised the efforts of Lionel Savins. "Lionel has literally worked in a volunteer capacity for thousands of hours. In fact, the other day I heard that Lionel has put in 13,500 hours over the years. " "That is a phenomenal effort " Mr Wolf added.

Mr Savins thanked everyone for their support. He also paid a special tribute to both Bill Mair who in July stood down from the Auction Manager's role, a position he had undertaken since the late 1980's, and to Linda Lee. Linda Lee has served on the executive for 8 years and has also had a huge role in the success of the Philatelic Development Council of which she is Secretary. Linda will be retaining her involvement with the PDC.

To succeed Bill Mair, Mr Wolf noted that Mr Michael Nibbs has been appointed auction co-ordinator.