

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COUNTRY STAMP CLUB MEMBER

Saturday 19 March 2022 4:10am – there is no particular reason why I woke at this time after all I have only had six of my normal eight hours sleep. However, I know I will not get back to sleep as I am excited about travelling by mini bus with other club members to *Canberra Stampshow 2022*. So, I toss and turn until 5:30am then “hit the deck”.

I quietly shave and hear water running so Des must be in the shower. He is an Albury based member who has travelled up for the trip and is staying with me.

Breakfast done and vehicle loaded at 6:30am we head for the shopping centre carpark to meet the mini bus. As we approach the last roundabout (Wagga Wagga is not only the “place on many crows” but also the “city of roundabouts”) we observe the Hertz rent-a-bus coming on our left with President Bob at the wheel. We follow in into the carpark and await the arrival of others.

We depart for Canberra two minutes early at 6:58am with eighteen members on board including new members Harry and Terry who will be attending their first big show and five junior members.

There is much friendly banter on the mini bus, time passes quickly and soon we are in Yass for a pit-stop including a bite to eat.

Back on the road again contact is made with Stampshow committee member Marilyn to advise our estimated time of arrival. The venue is easy to find and we arrive at 10:20am. The car parking attendant wants us to park some distance away and walk back to the venue. After an amicable discussion he agrees the mini bus can park on a nearby grassed area leaving a 200 metre walk to the entrance. Marilyn is waiting to meet us and she has arranged seamless entry for all eighteen of us.

With the help of two members, I hand two full shopping bags of empty album covers to Ed from Edlins and negotiate a sale. A quick pit-stop and a walk around the venue reveals it is well setup with a mix of stamp and coin dealers. I head to the large well manned Australia Post stand to purchase some show items for myself and two traders in Canada. The staff were both friendly and helpful. I fail to have a good look at the AP site and therefore miss the PNC covers being cleared out for a bargain \$5 each. I only find out about these later when I am getting back on the bus.

I access my want list and set out looking for some recent Australia, Christmas Island, Nauru and PNG stamps. After much searching, I obtain one of the Australian and one of the Norfolk Island items. Alas, not one dealer had much in the way of stamps from 2015 to 2021 from these countries.

Matty finds me and picks up his order of 1kg of Australian trimmed kiloware.

Wagga club Life Member Gary now living in the Newcastle area spots me and we have a yarn. He passes over a shoe box of material as a donation to the club.

The rest of the time is spent meeting and talking to collectors and dealers, many for the first time. I am pleased when Matthew & Amy from Sandy Bay Stamps, Tasmania who were also visiting the show introduce themselves. I have been dealing regularly with them via facebook site *Australian Stamp Collector*.

I have a talk with Tony Shields re a large polar collection a club member has for disposal and obtain his business card.

Lunch was adequate and reasonably priced. Junior member Quade was excited to show me some tea cards (similar to cigarette cards) he had purchased. They were very attractive and depicted birds and animals.

Another discussion with Torsten and Gary from Abacus Auctions resulted in Torsten returning to Melbourne via Wagga Wagga to collect a large (18,000 plus) Australian postmark collection which will go to public auction in July.

This latter discussion made me late for the Cinderella club meeting and then I had to leave early to catch the bus back to Wagga Wagga.

As I am leaving and saying goodbye to the Canberra club members on the front desk, I recognise one of them as Brian Jefferies of KJB Stamps ex Cooma and have a quick yarn.

I was second last back on the bus and we departed a couple of minutes late at 2:35pm. There was a lot of discussion about the event and purchases made. Everyone agreed it was a great event and they would come again.

The regulation pit-stop to refuel and feed was achieved at Yass and we arrive back in Wagga Wagga around 6.00 pm, tired but happy. Thanks Bob for driving and providing a safe, incident free trip.

To sum up: a very friendly event, personally I liked the venue better than the Hellenic Club. Space and lighting were adequate as was the café and car-parking. An improved public address system would help, I did not hear a reminder re the Cinderella club meeting.

Finally, the trip was free for club members and was funded by a 100 Club. Donated philatelic items were placed in 100 numbered envelopes each containing a minimum of \$10 value. Other envelopes contained \$20 or \$30 value and one envelope approximately \$100 value. The envelopes were sold to members for \$5 each and resulted in raising \$500.

Peter Simpfendorfer, Secretary, Wagga Stamp & Coin Club, 22 March 2022.