

THE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
Spring 2012

ISSUE 126

AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST
NEWSLETTER



The Dutch Mint, Utrecht

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The Australian Numismatist Newsletter is an official publication of the Numismatic Association of Victoria.

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Meetings are held at the Celtic Club, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne on the third Friday each month (except January).

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Syllabus 2012/13

Meeting	Topic	Speaker
21 st September	Donation Auction	
19 th October	1942 City of Sydney Medal	Darren Burgess
16 th November	To be announced	Jill Pearson
14 th December	Christmas Meeting & Awards	
15 th February	Annual General Meeting	
16 th March	To be announced	
19 th April	1000 th Meeting	

NAVigator

Welcome to the latest issue of the NAV's Australian Numismatist Newsletter and a new feature I'm trying out as an introduction that I've called the NAVigator (other suggestions most welcome). This issue's cover comes from a recent trip to Europe where I was fortunate enough to be able to visit a number of numismatic sites, including the Rijks Mint in The Netherlands, which you can read all about in the minutes of our June meeting.

We also have details of Bill Xynos' insightful talk on the appearances of the elusive 'Marianne' on currency throughout the world and a report from our latest meeting, which celebrated all things musical on the 30th anniversary of the first release of the compact disc to the public in August.

We have of course had the Melbourne ANDA fair back in July, again held at Caulfield Racecourse, and I've written a short report on this key event in the Victorian numismatic calendar. There are a couple of photos from the event that grace our rear cover.

Looking to the syllabus our next meeting on the 21st September sees our annual donation auction and a list of lots should be included with this newsletter. If you're unable to make the meeting and want to get your postal bids in then please either e-mail them or send them to the address on the inside of the front cover to arrive no later than 19th September to be sure of securing a bargain or two. The same addresses can also be used to send articles and feedback for this newsletter and they would be most gratefully received.

Finally you may have noticed we have a milestone coming up early next year with our 1000th meeting. Plans are afoot to make sure we celebrate this key event in the club's history and if you haven't been to a meeting in a while then this could be the excuse you need to make an appearance in April and enjoy the celebration.

Darren Burgess - Editor

Meeting Minutes – 21st June 2012
Meeting No. 991

Location Celtic Club, Second Floor, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne
Chair Vice-President, Frank Robinson
Present: 10 members **Apologies:** 8 members
Visitor: Mr Stephen Kirby

The Vice-President opened the meeting at 8:05pm by welcoming all present. Frank also welcomed a visitor, Mr. Stephen Kirby, to our meeting, following our contact at the Melbourne Numismatic Society's recent Coin Fair.

Minutes of the previous General Meeting No. 990 (18th May 2012)

Tabled and moved for acceptance on B Xynos' motion, seconded by J Henderson and carried.

Correspondence:

IBNS-Melb Chapter Newsletter (6/12), Geelong Numismatic Society Newsletter (4/12), Newcastle Num. Soc. Bulletin (5/12), Hallmark Auctions Stamp-Coin-Collectables Auction 24/6/12. No business was arisen from correspondence.

Reports from Council:

Finance & Membership (D Likar) – Account balance was about \$1,652 (end of April). Unpaid membership is down to 9 members, who will be contacted soon.

NAV Journal (F Robinson) – The release of the 2011 edition of the Journal was planned for release but a technical complication with an article will delay the printing, all of this to be completed after Frank's return from his scheduled holiday. Invitation to the 2012 edition is still open for members to consider.

Tender Sales (R Wilkinson) – Material is always required for the forthcoming sales (July & November) and one was received this evening. The Donation Auction is planned for September.

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Library (P Shields) – No update

NAA Affairs (R Wilkinson) – On Ross's behalf, the Vice-President informed members of Ross's knee operation, resulting to the absence of a Victorian Delegation to the NAA's AGM in Sydney.

Newsletter (Vacant) – Member Frank Robinson took over the editorial of our quarterly newsletter from its past editor, member Peter Hamilton. Frank promised to continue the publication's high standards. The latest issue has already been mailed out to the members and they should have their copies by now.

Newsletter & Website (F Robinson) – Frank was pleased to announce that Councillor Darren Burgess will undertake the duties of Newsletter Editor, with many thanks from the council and members present. The website will be looked into in a month's time for any needed changes.

New Acquisitions

- **Noble Numismatics/Tom May Collection** – David Likar showed members the 1862 London Exhibition Medal, one of Tom's favourite items. Awarded to an Australian firm manufacturing candles, this exhibition awarded too many medals, compared to the 1851, which are scarce.
- **British Campaign Medals of the 1st World War** - Pat Shields showed a small book on the subject full of useful information.

General Business

- ❖ **Update on member J Hope:** Member Dr John Chapman informed members on an update to John's health and his forthcoming plans of moving to Queensland. With the Vice-President wishing all our best on behalf of members, member Bill Xynos added that a card be sent to John by the Association. This will be looked into soon.

Syllabus – 'A Numismatic Travelogue' by Darren Burgess

The President invited Darren to open his presentation that was based on his holidays to Western Europe and Great Britain.

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The talk was aided by the display of maps and towns, as Darren and his wife travelled across the continent. The first destination was the Netherlands starting in Amsterdam, where for the last 80 years the Postzegelmarkt (stamp market) has been held on Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal, in the city's Old Centre each Wednesday and Saturday. This was the first opportunity to purchase a coin and 1794 Holland Guilder was the chosen as a suitable memento with an Australian connection as a proclamation coin.

Moving to Keukenhof with its windmills, the travellers were warmed by the sight of parks full of tulips in many different colours. Thankfully, Darren's appetite for something numismatic was answered: two souvenir tokens from the Keukenhof "Dutch Heritage Collectors Coin" token machines, depicting of course tulips, windmills and clogs.



Moving to Utrecht, walking along a footpath with large-scale imitation Dutch coins lead to one of the most impressive places visited was the Rijks Mint. Despite recent financial cuts, the Mint had a wonderful selection of coins, banknotes and other items. As Darren tried to communicate, the mint was very accommodating in locating a staff member speaking English. Soon, Mr Harold appeared and dedicated a significant amount of his time by providing a personal tour of the Mint. The Mint's hospitality was overwhelming and was something to remember.

Sights included the small library was full of rare and unique books, but the building's ceilings and painted walls depicting different processes involved in minting were exquisite. Other rooms revealed extensive collections of coins, examples of Dutch banknotes and full sheets of the French Assignats. There was a dedicated wall with portraits of the Mint's past directors, and one hallway had its parqueted floor layered with numerous obsolete Dutch coins showing their reverse, as it was not a custom to 'step onto a royal head'.

Another room was shown with a minting machine, dedicated for the presentation of new coinage by members of the Royal family. Darren's insight into the Mint was virtually complete: he was able to peek in to the room where designers and employees had their offices. Mr. Harold explained that while the Mint seems to be small in scale, it's very active with the production of coins on behalf of foreign national banks in the euro zone, as well as coins for other countries. As a memento, a souvenir banknote with portraits of the 'royal family' was the icing on the cake.

Darren's next visit was to Germany for a personal visit to at the Becklingen War Cemetery where Sergeant Ray James (Darren's Great Uncle) is buried. Just down the road was the infamous Bergen-Belsen which left a grim impression as his grandfather (George Burgess) witnessed some of the most painful atrocities of the war as one of the many British and allied troops to liberate this camp.

On a happier note, the Burgesses passed through Luxembourg into France through the heart of Champagne country. Arriving in Paris lead to an opportunity for Darren to visit Monnaie de Paris, however their museum is currently undergoing renovation and so he was only able to visit the 'Boutique' on this visit. Meanwhile Mrs Burgess visited Notre-Dame and her searches were also productive with a few souvenir tokens too.

The Rue Vivienne contained so many coin shops that had amazing window displays, but inside there was a tiny teller opening,

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allowing only for a small area to view and inspect numismatic items. The acquisition of a bronze Marianne jeton by Dupre and a Louis XVI bronze medal by Dupre and Duvivier were two impressive items.



Still in Paris on to the Musee Carnavalet, the Museum of Paris, which contained a number numismatic items including a steel plate for the 5 francs Assignat note and a plastered circular portrait of the 'angel' holding a quill near the plaques of the Constitution, virtually identical to the 'angel' coins of the Revolution. Other giant medal-like plastered portraits representing mythological figures were just spectacular. The, the visit to the Paris Opera was breathtaking and very memorable, as some of the photos taken by Darren can testify.

Darren's next destination was the place of his family, Great Britain, and specifically Bridgnorth. This visit was mandatory with Darren meeting his father, brother and other relatives. Other places were the 19th century built Shakespeare pub a token issuer, the Church of St Mary Magdalene and the neighbouring castle where parts of the great tower that leans 4 times as much as the tower of Pisa.

Darren was pleased to locate at the local museum some tokens dates about 1886 (3d token W.H.Baker & Son, Excelsior Bakery), as well as of mid-17th century tokens. Darren's numismatic search for Bridgnorth related tokens was evident with the next slide, a 6-pence hammer struck coin from Bridgnorth during the Civil War (ex-Tom May collection).

But back to Great Britain, the next place - Hay on Wye - was pleasant as he came into contact with numerous shops selling just books! But after some search, the only numismatic book was one on Guilden written in Dutch! Oh well...

On returning home, the Burgesses visited Hong Kong and experienced the spectacular views of the harbour. And of course, something numismatic had to be found – the use of the Star Ferry produced 4 tokens (2 for both upper and lower decks). Darren's presentation ended with a snapshot of Barry, the family cat, probing inside a Paris shopping bag, looking for a treat! The presentation was supplemented by an impressive exhibit of numismatic and other memorabilia from Darren's holidays.

Following questions from members, Vice-President Frank Robinson opened his Vote of Thanks by thanking Darren for a most entertaining talk, full of historical and architectural details from many visited towns, as well as some on the subject of numismatics. Members joined Frank in congratulating Darren in the customary manner.

The Vice-President thanked all members and closed the meeting at 9:25pm. Refreshments kindly arranged by the Celtic Club management.

2012 Melbourne ANDA Fair

It was a cold start on Saturday 7th July as I arrived at the Caulfield Racecourse to help set-up the club tables. The bourse was bustling with dealers laying out their wares and I was desperately in need of a coffee.

A couple of other club members were there already with their cabinets ready to display their collections to the public and there were even a couple of hardened members of the public waiting to get in.

When the doors open there's always a rush to the Royal Australian Mint's stand where again they had their mobile press ready to counter stamp this year's collectors dollar coin.

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This year's design harks back to Australia's pre-decimal coinage with the wheat sheaf design that originally appeared on the threepence. This follows on from last year's ram's head design echoing the shilling. It's always a popular collector's item and I have to admit to still getting a small thrill when I get to hit that button to strike an 'M' counterstamp.

Awards for displays were issued on the Sunday afternoon with Mr Bill Xynos scooping a total of three first prize awards: Coins & Tokens for his display on Liberty, Banknotes & Paper Money for his magnificent Giants of Printers and his thematic display on Conquerors of Lands & Sky showing off some of nature's predators. I must congratulate Bill on his efforts, his dedication is an inspiration.

Mr Terry Pepperell showed his customary excellence in being awarded both the Tom May Award for Most Popular Display as voted by the public and the ANDA – NAV Perpetual Trophy for Best Exhibit for his display of badges from the Melbourne Continuation School – 1905.



A big thanks to all the exhibitors and volunteers that helped throughout the weekend, you were much needed. It was such a shame that more members did not display, in fact we had two

empty tables, which was very disappointing. The other disappointment was the lack of volunteers to man key positions over the weekend and we're looking at ways to make sure this doesn't happen in future years.

Dealers reported brisk trading on the Saturday and the usual slow down on the Sunday with a total of 892 people through the doors over the weekend, just slightly up on last year, there's clearly still a future for this show in Melbourne.

Meeting Minutes – 20th July 2012

Meeting No. 992 – The Ray Jewell Memorial Meeting

Location Celtic Club, Second Floor, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne

Chair President, Ross Wilkinson

Present: 10 members **Apologies:** 3 members

Visitor: Mr Charles Hunt

The President opened the meeting at 8:10pm by welcoming all present, with special greetings to Mr. Charles Hunt, member of the Tasmanian Numismatic Society. Ross thanked the members for their best wishes and card during his recovery from his recent operation, and for Frank chairing the last meeting.

Minutes of the previous General Meeting (15th June 2012, No.991): Tabled and accepted by membership, on a motion by Bill Xynos, seconded by Len Henderson. A minor correction was identified: the meeting's date was the 15th of June.

Correspondence:

Banking correspondence, NSSA Newsletter, Perth Numismatic Journal (4/12), Newcastle Numismatic Society Bulletin (6/12), ANS QLD News Bulletin (6 & 7/12), QNS Monthly Magazine (6 & 6/12), Report of ANS "The 2010 Biennial Conference", Geelong Numismatic Society Newsletter (5/12), Tasmanian Numismatist (7-8/12), IBNS-Melb Chapter Newsletter (7/12).

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On matters arising, the significant item of correspondence risen was the sad news of NSSA member John Downey passing away. Many members recollected their acquaintance and friendships with the late John, especially at the past NSSA-NAV Symposiums. The Association will send an acknowledgement to the NSSA.

Reports from Council:

Finance & Membership (D Likar) – On 20th June, the term deposit was reinvested (\$27,000) at a rate of 4.55% for 6 months, maturing on 20th December 2012.

The remaining \$1,885 before reinvestment was injected into the No.2 account, lifting its balance to \$3,537 (end of June). We have generated an income of \$50 from book sales at the ANDA Fair.

Syllabus & Journal (F Robinson) – With Frank's return, coinciding with the submission of the final article, the proof version of the 2011 edition will be ready shortly. The invitation of articles for the 2012 issue remains open.

Tender Sales (D Likar) – The next tender sales is planned for November and the Donation Auction for September.

Library (P Shields) – Council discussions will review the catalogue of our library books.

NAA Affairs (R Wilkinson) – With Ross still on the mend, there will be no Victorian representation at the forthcoming NAA AGM in Sydney on the 27th of July, but a brief report has been submitted regarding our affairs and on the selection process for the Paul Simon Award.

Newsletter (D Burgess) – Darren's first newsletter was successful with positive comments from members. He encouraged them for submitting material for the next issues.

Website (F Robinson) – Further adjustments and updates will be completed soon.

New Acquisitions

- **ANDA Fair:** Darren Burgess purchased the first medallion struck by the NAV in 1949 commemorating the centenary of the first Australian copper token issued by Melbourne Grocers Annand, Smith & Co. in 1849.
- **Downies Auction:** Darren Burgess was able to acquire a counter-stamped cartwheel penny issued by James Milton of Bridgnorth.
- **Queensland Mementos:** Frank Robinson was able to visit the local tourist attractions and find a 1965 penny-token; A Russian Treasury bond dated 1919 and one early Russian 25 Roubles banknote with a red overprint on reverse. Finally, he withdrew from a local ATM a 2012 issue of the polymer \$50 note with the new signatory.

General Business

- ❖ **Report on the ANDA Fair:** Bill Xynos gave a brief report on the Fair and thanked all volunteers, exhibitors and judges who have dedicated their time in assisting the Association. Despite some setbacks with promised assistance, and the unexpected absence of some regular volunteers, Bill summarised that overall, we achieved our aims in promoting the hobby and displaying quality exhibits. Councillor Darren Burgess complemented the report by expressing his concern with the small number of exhibitors as well as the absence of some volunteers at the information tables.

On a positive note the President of the Melbourne Numismatic Society, Mr. Michael Wade, was interested with our exhibition concept and will overview possible direct participation of his Society's members, which would improve attendance, in comparison to the recent MNS Exhibition at Box Hill.

- ❖ **Numismatics in Tasmania:** Our visitor, Mr Charles Hunt gave a brief update on the numismatic affairs in Tasmania and the difficulties in keeping the Tasmanian Numismatic Society's meetings active, as members are based in a wide area of the state.

- ❖ **Report on QNS:** Vice-President Frank Robinson gave a brief report visiting the QNS general meeting during his visit. As a member for 24 years, Frank was pleased to attend for the first time and meet many friends. Frank conveyed their best greetings to all NAV members tonight and Frank reciprocated accordingly at his QNS attendance.
- ❖ **Update on J Hope:** Member Dr John Chapman informed members of John's relocation to Queensland and all members present wished John all the best for the future. At this point, Frank Robinson added that John has now been elected a member of the QNS.
- ❖ **RAM Issues:** Member John Chapman expressed his disappointment on the issue with the kangaroo, where the design allows for its shadow to fall at the wrong spot. This design flaw is another failure, such as the wrong rifle used for the ANZAC issue, forcing our member to join a hoard of disappointing numismatists.

Syllabus: 'Marianne' by Bill Xynos

The President invited Frank Robinson for an introductory recollection on our past President, member and friend, Ray Jewell. Frank acclaimed that Ray was one of the great numismatists we have ever seen and met. His numismatic knowledge was not only strong, but also available for all numismatists, experts and novices. Ray's passion and sharing of knowledge was everlasting.

One example of his capacity to apply his knowledge was during his visit at an Australian museum, where upon requesting the inspection of numismatic items, informed the curators that the presented material were not the originals.

In 1964, he sold his collection to Max Stern but was employed at the shop. Frank's recollection of his generosity was when Ray sold him a numismatic book Frank needed, which he later found out was Ray's personal copy. With all this, Frank invited Bill Xynos to start his presentation.

The presentation commenced with studying the origins of the name of Marianne. Some believe that it comes from a 16th century monarch-mach Jesuit Juan de Mariana, the author of interesting works, such as his 30-volume accounts for the history of Spain (*Historiae de rebus Hispaniae*), written from 1592. In another volume of works (*De rege et regis institutione* - Toledo, 1598), he argues on the issue of tyrants overruling a country and offers options for dethroning them for the benefit of the people. Perhaps these distilled ideas perpetrated his name to be preserved and used for expressing revolutionary ideals.

Others believe that the name came from that of the French politician Jean Reubell's wife in 1797. But the name was extremely popular then, and could be linked with the local Toulouse folk song "La guerison de Marianne".

Marianne was encapsulated as a person in Eugene Delacroix's 1830 painting of "Liberty Leading The People". Influenced by the revolt of 1830 against Charles X, Delacroix's painting expressed the same feelings of the Parisians during the revolution of 1789 that for eminent historians changed the political and social fabric of France and beyond.

Marianne appears strong, leading and fierce against all odds. Bare breasted too, she represents everything pure about the revolt; a sign of desperation from the public for overthrowing many years of political and economic control and stagnation by the aristocracy and monarchy.

Bill continued to outline the history of the time looking at the possible motives for the 1789 Revolution. Some of the main causes were the past extravagant governments, the period of famine due to the Icelandic volcano eruptions of 1783-1784, the French assistance to the American Revolution that eventually costed over 2 billion livres, and the ever-increasing presence of the British Navy controlling the commercial routes to the French Colonies.

The French Monarchy attempted to reform and adapt to the gradual power gained by the population (Estates-General). The

arrival of inviting foreign forces in July 1798 was seen as a threat to the political changes and the fortress of Bastille was attacked on the 14th of July. In August, the National Constituent Assembly abolished feudalism and declared the Rights of Man and of Citizen.

With a loss of further power, King Louis XVI attempted to escape but was captured. With foreign monarchical pressures, the Constitution was adopted but internally, the decision was wavered between moderate monarchs and radical revolutionaries.

This political stalemate was shifted to the radicals as the king's attempt to flee the country with the foreign pressure forced the abolishment of the monarchy in September 1792. In January 1793, the king was executed and the Reign of Terror commenced, causing the indiscriminate and, at times, the death of many innocent lives. It has been estimated that over 17,000 were killed or died in prisons, with over 300,000 suspects captured.

These events caused extreme opposition in Europe, especially from Austria and Prussia. France was forced to declare war against them but following some successes, defeats were followed. At a certain stage, the country was threatened directly but during the Reign of the Terror, the defence of the ideals gained with the Revolution was so much required, that over a million people were volunteered as a new army. Eventually, Prussia and Austria were defeated, thanks to the emergence of Napoleon Bonaparte and his military achievements (in northern Italy and beyond the eastern borders of France).

Bill continued by showing key elements of Marianne and her representations, which appeared since antiquity (Greek vases since mid-6th century BC, Phrygia about 2nd century BC, Roman slaves). In modern times, elements such as the Phrygian cap and the spear were used by many countries - influenced by the ideals of the French Revolution – on their coins, banknotes and coat-of-arms. Most of these countries were from Latin America; not surprising as the region was under the control of the Spanish monarchy. Bill's presentation was supported by many related slides showing many

coins from around the world (with some banknotes), from Argentina to the United States, from Liberia to French Polynesia, and from Cape Verde to Mexico. These and more numismatic items were physically displayed too.

President Ross Wilkinson gave his Vote of Thanks by outlining the importance of the Ray Jewell Memorial evening, dedicated for quality presentations to perpetuate the spirit of exchanging numismatic knowledge, as Ray has always done. Ross felt that this presentation was worthy of this spirit and with applause from the members, congratulated Bill for a wonderful talk.

The President thanked all and closed the meeting at 9:35pm. Then, a Tender Sales session was conducted by Pat Shields, assisted by David Likar. Refreshments kindly arranged by the Celtic Club management.

Rare coin sells for \$410,000

An extremely rare, 1813 Australian coin with a hole in it has sold for a record \$410,000 at a Melbourne auction.

A private collector bought the Hannibal Head Holey Dollar, which was shaped in New South Wales from a silver dollar minted in Peru in 1810.

The coin was the only privately owned version; the only other is housed in the State Library of New South Wales. Its highest previous recorded auction price was \$270,950 in 2008.

Also sold at the Coinworks sale at the RACV Club in Bourke Street last night was an 1813 New South Wales Colonial Dump - a centrepiece from one of the 1813 doughnut coins, stamped "fifteen pence". It sold for \$100,000.

And an 1852 Adelaide Pound coin sold for a record \$370,000. The previous highest price was \$130,000 in 2005.

The Age 28th August 2012

Meeting Minutes – 17th August 2012

Meeting No. 993

Location Celtic Club, Second Floor, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne
Chair President, Ross Wilkinson
Present: 9 members **Apologies:** 8 members
Visitor: Mr Dominic Munton

The President opened the meeting at 7.52pm by welcoming all present.

Minutes of the previous General Meeting (20th July 2012, No.992):

Tabled and accepted by membership on a motion by D Burgess that was seconded by P Shields.

Correspondence:

ANS-QLD Branch News Bulletin (8/12), QLD Num. Soc. Inc. Magazine (7/12), Newcastle Num. Soc. Bulletin (7/12), Geelong Numismatic Society's Newsletter (6/12), IBNS-Melb Chapter Newsletter (8/12), Bank statement. No business was arisen from correspondence.

Reports from Council:

Finance & Membership (D Likar) – On his behalf, the President advised of our account's balance of \$3,112.37 as of 27/7 and Vice-President F Robinson added that since then, issued cheques total about \$800.

Syllabus & Journal (F Robinson) – Frank updated the members of the next presentations. The final article for 2011 is under proofing. Publication is expected soon. Articles for 2012 are most welcomed.

Tender Sales (D Likar) – While material for the Donation Auction and the Tender Sales are adequate for this year new arrivals are always required for next year.

Library (P Shields) – No update.

NAA Affairs (R Wilkinson) – No update.

Newsletter (D Burgess) – No update.

Website (F Robinson) – With Frank's focus on the Journal, the website has not been updated.

New Acquisitions

- **British Medal:** D Burgess showed a medal depicting Rowland Lord Hill, a prominent person in the British Armed Forces during Waterloo. He later took command of the 19th Foot Regiment.
- **Southern Skies:** As an astrophysicist, Darren's other acquisition was the 2012 silver \$5 Proof Colour-Printed-Domed Southern Skies coin. Being the first ever concave coin produced by the Royal Australian Mint, it emulates the night sky and features the Southern Cross. Its release was tied in to National Science Week.
- **Philippines Guerrilla Currency:** F Robinson showed banknote examples from the Philippines guerrilla currency during World War II.
- **A Very Good Banknote:** R Wilkinson advised members of his Australian \$50 polymer note with a VG 95 prefix; believed to be the last one issued in 1995.
- **Ecuadorian Marshal:** K Marshall showed a thick-made bronze medal from Ecuador by Casadio, showing Marshall of Ayacucho Antonia Jose de Sucre in military uniform on horseback right and with an upright sword in his hand. On reverse, an allegory of Victory.

General Business

- ❖ **Business at Meetings:** President Ross Wilkinson informed the members of Council's consideration for a while in restructuring the "business part" of our General meetings and streamlining the proceedings. It proposed the typing and distribution of a brief 'business' report to the members, as with the minutes. Further, only items of major significance will be raised at the meetings. Ross has also suggested in settling and bringing forward the starting time, to which member J Henderson supported its flexibility, for the benefit of the far-based

members travelling to the city. All present agreed to streamlining the 'business' part.

- ❖ ***Time limit of presentations:*** J Henderson reminded of a presentation some time ago that was at least a whole hour! F Robinson and P Shields added that while this was an exception, the preferred and presently-adhered limit is between 30 and 40 minutes.
- ❖ ***New Members:*** The difficulty of obtaining new members is also experienced by our Association. Councillor D Burgess commented on the flourishing membership of the Perth-based numismatic clubs, supported by a renewed interest in numismatics, but also backed up by the better economic conditions.
- ❖ ***Numismatics in New Zealand:*** Visitor Dominic confirmed the steady interest in numismatics but found out that collectors were keener on banknotes and medals, rather than coins; and this reflected the availability of material in New Zealand.
- ❖ ***Member J O'Riley:*** Member B Hammon reported the latest news about John's health following his recent visit. While John's health is overall quite good, he developed some loss of memory for short periods. Unfortunately, this condition may not improve over time. We all wished well for John and his family.

Syllabus: 'Theme Night – Music'

With enthusiasm, The President opened the presentation by showing us a compact disc. Today (exact date) it's the 30th anniversary of the commercial release of the compact disc, and therefore the best way for celebrating music through numismatics!

It's believed that the first classical music ever recorded on a CD was Mozart, and the first pop music recorded was that from the group Bee Gees. Ross then invited members to open this special presentation.

D. Burgess: Darren's presentation was based on three elements: (a) musical instruments, (b) composers and, (c) singers. Related items were shown: the drummer on a commemorative

bicentennial US quarter coin, traditional drum (Rebana) on a 1989 Malaysian One Sen coin and native instruments on a Sudanese 2 pounds banknote of 2006.

Composers were well represented on banknotes with Hector Berlioz on a 10 Francs French banknote issued from 1974 to 1978 and Claude Debussy on the 20 Francs that entered circulation in 1981 until the introduction of the Euro. Chopin appears on a Polish 5000 zlotych note issued from 1982 to 1988, a portrait of Smetana on a 1000 korun Czechoslovakian note of 1985. There were also a number of assorted silver Austrian coins commemorating anniversaries of births and deaths of composers such as Haydn, Strauss and Mozart. Finally, a 2012 10 euro French coin with the portrait of Edith Piaf, one of the best ever singers of the 20th century all accompanied by strains of Je Ne Regrette Rien.

L Henderson: Len started his presentation by apologising for not bringing along items to show. His talk started by describing our perceptions of surrounding objects since antiquity. For centuries, we were told that everything evolved around Jerusalem, but it wasn't the centre of everything. All seemed to be in perfect harmony and organised until stars were studied. Venus and Mercury revolved around us and had their own dissimilar calendar to that of our planet.

Copernicus and Galileo studied and questioned our night's sky but were excommunicated and hunted down for their extraordinary theories about the heliocentric nature of the solar system, the discovery of the moons of Jupiter and even the discovery of black spots over the Sun. Contributions by Kepler and others were interpreted astronomically as 'music of the spheres', according to Len.

And so, Strauss named a short piece of music as such (music of the spheres) when he was pressed upon producing something musically. Its notes were based on mathematical progressions. Beethoven also wrote some music and named it after the planets.

Much later, radio astronomy flourished when signals coming to our planet were picked up. Initially, believing that these were messages from extra-terrestrial sources, today, these are signals emanating from pulsating bodies, or pulsars. These erratic noises are 'music from natural sources'.

Len summarised some examples of musical themes appearing on militaria and other numismatic items and he finished by quoting that 'in his collecting, there is music in his madness'.

J Henderson: Joan started her talk by showing examples of the Celtic Harp on Irish coinage. The harp was chosen for the first coinage of the Irish Free State. The background on the choice of design was the invitation of sculptors to make designs. At the last moment, it was realised that there was no English sculptor ever invited, and it was suggested that P Metcalfe be invited. In the end, Metcalfe's designs were so good, that all of his designs were adopted. Joan gave a brief historical importance of the harp and other Celtic instruments. Their mythological and cultural importance was also detailed by Joan.

F Robinson: Frank's numismatic knowledge on Brazil was revealed by his talk on conductor Villa Lobos whose portrait is shown on the Brazilian banknote of 500 cruzados issued in the early 1970s.

Frank gave a brief biography on this important composer, who is regarded today as one of the best-known and most significant Latin American composer. The performance of his musical work *Bachianas Brasileiras No.5* played at the closing ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics has added a special significance of this unique conductor to the musical world, as the next summer Olympics will be conducted in Rio de Janeiro.

Lobos wrote numerous orchestral, chamber, instrumental and vocal works; and his music was influenced by both Brazilian folk music and by stylistic elements from the European classical tradition. Despite the lack of local recognition, he gained popularity abroad during his European appearances.

President Ross Wilkinson joined all in appreciating and thanking the speakers on this fascinating topic. The Door Prizes were kindly donated by Bob Hammon: The first one was a pair of banknotes from Australia (\$2 Johnson/Fraser) and Iceland (10 kronur from 1970s) won by our visitor, Mr Dominic Munton. The second one was a book on the Royal Families of Europe won by Len Henderson. The meeting closed at 9:30pm. Refreshments kindly arranged by the Celtic Club management.

Tasmanian dig unearths first currency exchange

A HOBART archaeological consultant believes he could have found Australia's first currency exchange on the site of the city's new Myers store.

Parry Kostoglou and his team have found coins and other artefacts more than 200-years-old at a dig on the CBD site, which will be redeveloped after fire destroyed the old store in 2007.

"What's really cool about the coins is that a lot of them are from overseas, they're not just English coins," he told AAP.

"There's Indian coins, there might be a Mexican silver dollar there and other coins that as yet haven't been cleaned up, but they don't look English."

A dig was ordered before building started because the site has been developed five times since white settlement in 1804.

Convict period stoneware bottles, plates from China and gun flints from America are among the discoveries, but it's the coins that could be the important find.

"What that means is basically troops and people that came out on the first fleet (to Tasmania) were asked to empty their pockets and they collectivised the money and created a sort of ad hoc currency system because there was no existing system of trade," Mr Kostoglou said. – AAP 2nd August 2012

