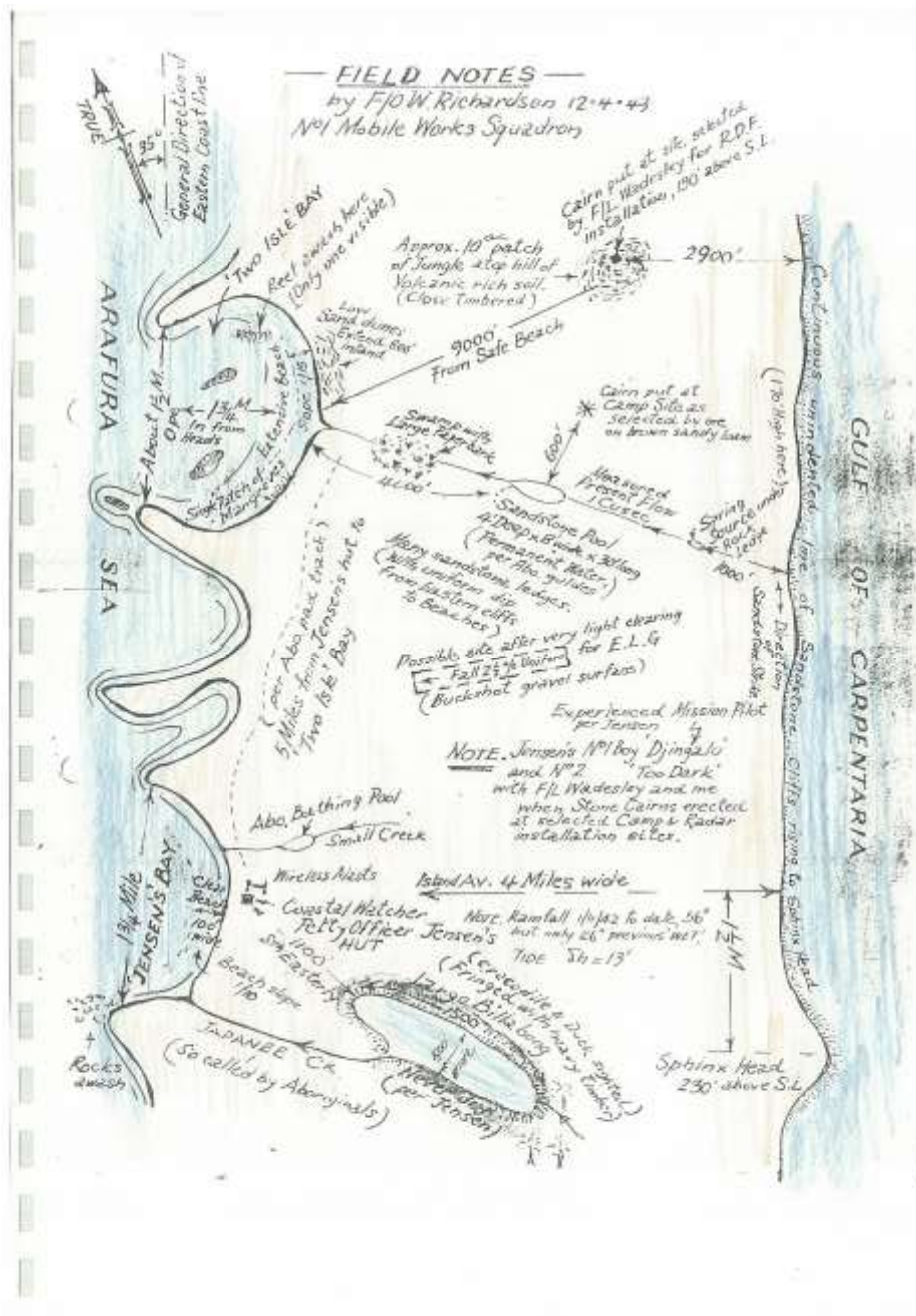


## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER



**X Marks the Spot:** Coins of the African sultanate of Kilwa found by Private Maurie Isenberg of the 312 Radar Unit in 1944 on the Northern Territory's Wessel Islands, are estimated to date back to the 12th century.

# AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

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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 2013

Meeting	Topic	Speaker
21 June	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Australia’s First Distinctive Note & Tender Sale	Alan Flint
19 July	Ray Jewell Memorial Meeting: Victorian Tradesmen’s Tokens	Frank Robinson
16 August	Donation Auction	
20 September	Bridgnorth Revisited	Darren Burgess
18 October	Topic to be Announced & Tender Sale	Bill Xynos
15 November	Topic to be Announced	Michael Wade
13 December	Christmas Meeting & Awards	

# AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

## NAVigator

Welcome to the winter edition of the NAV Newsletter. As I write this I've just returned from the 2013 World Stamp Expo, which was held from 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May at the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne. Even though there was a clear philatelic bias to the event there were still a number of numismatic items on display and up for sale. On the Australian Coin Auctions stand there was a display of some stunning Australian historic medals that form part of their forthcoming auction commemorating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Also celebrating an anniversary was the first Australian Commonwealth banknote and this was on display not only at the exhibition but throughout the media on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its printing on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1913. There was also the release of a stamp and two coins from the Royal Australian Mint to commemorate the amazing success of the Victorian racehorse Black Caviar.

There was also a first from the Royal Australian Mint with a Philatelic Numismatic Cover (PNC) commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kangaroo and Map stamp. Not only was there a \$10 stamp on the cover, but it also contained the first 'M' counterstamped 50c piece. Previously only dollar coins have been counterstamped by the RAM's mobile press. With only 1,750 of these issued each day of the exhibition this is likely to be a collectable to look out for in the future.

There were also hundreds of displays by philatelists from all corners of the globe, and the Astrophilately section certainly caught my eye. The whole event made me wonder if we could even dream of putting on a numismatic event of this nature in this country.

In this issue we have a report of our own commemorations of the 1000<sup>th</sup> meeting and articles from not one but two contributors! There's also the cover story about the African coins that could change Australian history. Keep warm and dry and we hope to see you at the ANDA fair at Caulfield on the weekend of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of July.

Darren Burgess - President

## **The Mészáros Family Medals**

Matthew Churchward, Senior Curator of the Humanities Department of the Museum of Victoria, organises public talks on a variety of subjects. On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013 a small (very small) display of the Mészáros medals were on show and a talk on the subject was given by Michael Mészáros, a full time sculptor, one of only a handful in Australia.

The family tradition of medal making began with Michael's father, Andor Mészáros, who learnt the art in the 1903s from Ede Telcs in Budapest. The three generations of the family now working as sculptors all first trained as architects.

Medals are first moulded in plasticine before a master is made in plaster ready for the work being developed for striking. Generally the designs are bigger than any minting firm in Australia can make so they are sent to England where Pinches complete the work of striking the pieces in bronze. The works consist of both commissioned and exhibition pieces. They usually are of historical events as a solid record of conditions, ideas and influences as literary records can be put aside and forgotten.

Just as the Wyon family are remembered because of their medallic designs, whilst newspaper and magazine articles are not freely available, so too the Mészáros family are known from their medals.

Museum Victoria has a significant collection of the family medals with over 100 pieces; this is the largest collection of the two artists' work in any public institution. Other collections of Andor and Michael's medallic art are held in the British Museum, the Royal Dutch Coin Collection and many private collections throughout Europe, Australia, New Zealand and America. Two years ago Michael was awarded the American Numismatic Association's "Numismatic Art Award for Excellence in Medallic Sculpture". He has also been honoured with his own O.A.M. (Medal of the Order of Australia).

One fact that I only just realized is that all of the medals do not have an exergue. Anna, Michael's niece, is keeping up the family tradition

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and works in larger pieces, generally over 70cm. She has produced a series of The Stations of the Cross, with individual pieces on display outside Melbourne city churches. Her work is lesser known, but is on permanent show to the public.

It is unfortunate that this talk and the exhibition was not better advertised, but even if it had been the lecture theatre would not have been able to hold many more people. Numismatics is more than collecting and studying just coins and banknotes, with medals playing a significant part of our hobby. - Len Henderson

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### **Canada unveils its new space-themed \$5 in space!**

With the help of Commander Chris Hadfield aboard the International Space Station, the Bank of Canada launched its new robot and astronaut themed five dollar bill on the 30th April. Hadfield has been keeping the new bill under wraps for months.

The new polymer \$5 bill shows the Canadarm2 and Dextre manipulator robots, along with an ambiguous astronaut meant to symbolize all Canadians who have contributed to its space program.



The new bill, along with a new \$10 note, will enter in to circulation this coming November, joining the recently updated \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills. The polymer series is being hailed as Canada's most secure bank notes ever, owing to state-of-the-art security features like holography and transparency. - io9.com, 1 May 2013

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**Minutes of General Meeting No. 998**

**15<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

**Location** Celtic Club, Second Floor, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne  
**Chair** President, Darren Burgess      **Secretary** Bill Xynos  
**Present:** 9 members      **Apologies:** 5 members

The President opened the meeting at 8:22pm.

**Minutes of General Meeting No. 996 - 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

Tabled and moved for acceptance by Mr Len Henderson, seconded by Bob Hammon and carried.

**Minutes of General Meeting No. 997 - 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

Tabled and moved for acceptance by Mr Bill Xynos, seconded by Joan Henderson and carried.

**Council Report addendum (Correspondence)** Newsletters from various clubs, membership fee payments, 1000<sup>th</sup> Dinner acceptances and payments, Bank statement, Term Deposit Renewal.

**Correspondence** IBNS-Melb Chapter Newsletter (2/13), email from Roger McNeice on TNS's Cessation of Transportation Medallion replicas (for sale), correspondence with ANDA regarding Sponsorship 2012 and Year 2013 Shows.

**Matters Arising from Correspondence** Member Pat Shields received communication from Tony Alsop on the discovery of some past issues by the Mint. Orders for TNS's Transportation Medallion replicas must be places with Bill tonight.

**Reports from Council**

Detailed report tabled and distributed.

**1000<sup>th</sup> Meeting Celebratory Diner (D Likar)** – This has attracted about 20 members so far.

**Syllabus (F Robinson)** – The March meeting will be held one week later on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> due to St Patrick's Day Celebrations being held at the Celtic Club. The Syllabus was tabled with some vacancies on the second half of the year. Accordingly, members were invited to participate.

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**NAV Journal (F Robinson)** – Expressions of interest and articles must be forwarded as soon as possible.

### New Acquisitions

Pat Shields showed the latest acquisitions that included a lovely Portuguese medal relating to Captain Cook. Frank Robinson showed his purchase of “One Milliard” note from Germany dated 20/10/1923. Darren Burgess showed his CD of The Standard Catalogue of the Provincial Banknotes of England & Wales by Roger Outing. He also showed a medal awarded to the late Peter Wall dated 2004.

### General Business

**ANDA Melbourne Show (6-7 July 2013)** – Bill Xynos informed the members that the NAV has been verbally invited to ANDA’s July Show (Caulfield Racecourse). He asked for an improved participation from members. Application forms for exhibits were tabled and expressions of interest for volunteering will be accepted from next month.

**ANDA Melbourne International Show (18-20 October 2013)** – This will be held at the Etihad Stadium (Medallion Room). No details or invitations have been forwarded to us but the Show will have an ‘international’ flavour with the presence of overseas members. Bill stated that it may be difficult for the NAV to participate in a similar way as in July, and volunteering from all Victorian-based clubs should be sought. Bill has also stated in his emails to ANDA, that all related information must be forwarded to us the earliest, as we’ll be contacting our sister clubs to coordinate volunteering and exhibits. Bill mentioned that he’ll try to obtain full information by late March / early April. While the NAV has not been invited officially, Bill has not committed the Association into any arrangement relating to this Show.

**Newsletter** – Darren is preparing the next issue and, with David Likar’s assistance, reminders for subscription fees.

**Tender Sales and Donation Auction** – David Likar will contact Ross Wilkinson for the status of materials / lots. The dates for the Sales and the Auction are listed on the tabled Syllabus.



The President thanked all members and declared the meeting as closed at 9:25pm.

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## A Mystery "World of Brightness" Coin

Well that's the description given to this coin on the Primal Trek internet site: **Chinese "World of Brightness" Coin**. I bought my Bright World, 9 star reverse coin, from a dealer in Kowloon in 1983. He told me he thought it was a commemorative piece issued after the Guang Xu Emperor had died. He said also it was minted in Guangdong province, however he was unsure what year it was struck. Certainly in and around the Hong Kong region this piece was accepted as an issue produced after the Emperor De Zong had died.



These coins are by no means common, I can only find one other example on the internet, also they are not listed in any world coin catalogue that I know of. (Perhaps they should be?)

If what that dealer told me 30 years ago is correct, then these coins most likely would have been struck early in 1909, because coins from the Guangdong mint for the last Emperor PuYi are known to have been issued around June of that year. I consider it most unlikely that coins for the Guang Xu Emperor would have been struck after this time, all though it's possible.

Numismatists in Europe and Asia can't seem to agree as to the meaning and purpose of this coin. Some seem to think it is just a gambling token. Many believe it to be spirit money, money that is buried with the dead. Others say it is associated with the Heaven and Earth Society, a group that formed dedicated to overthrowing the Qing Dynasty and restoring



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the native Ming Dynasty. Some say that the 9 stars on the reverse of this coin shows that it is a religious token and the 9 stars are the 9 gods of the mother Queen of heaven (tianhou) a Buddhist Goddess.

I will not say that all of these theories are wrong; I will however add my own thoughts, which to my way of thinking seems logical. Emperor De Zong's reign title is Guang Xu translates as "Bright Succession". The mystery coin when read from top to bottom reads Guang Ming. Guang translates as Bright and Ming translates as Bright also. *A succession of the word Bright.* Because of this I think the two coins are linked and show that they represent the same Emperor.

Now as for the 9 stars on the reverse of this Bright World coin / token. Well seeing that the Shun Zhi Emperor who is regarded as being the First Qing Dynasty Emperor to rule over a unified China, then our Guang Xu Emperor has to be the ninth. So possibly the 9 stars represent each of the 9 Qing Dynasty Emperors that had passed away, or as the saying goes "left this world to be re-united with their ancestors"? Access to old Mint records, if they were ever kept or archived, would be the only way of proving if the above thoughts of mine are correct.

Before ending I must add something of interest: The Guang Xu Emperor suddenly died at the age of 37. The population regarded his death as suspicious. Rumours persisted saying that the Dowager Empress Cixi had poisoned the Emperor. It was well known that the Empress disliked the Emperor, in 1898 she had him put under house arrest, and he remained there until he died. The Qing dynasty medical records list the Emperor as dying of disease. Another rumour was that the former commander and would be Emperor Yuan Shi kai had solicited assistance from a Palace Eunuch to poison the Emperor.

Finally 100 years later on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2008 the Guang Xu Emperors body was exhumed, forensic tests revealed that the level of arsenic in the Emperors remains was 2,000 times higher than normal, conclusive proof that the Emperor had been poisoned. Now there is another mystery, who poisoned him? – Peter Goldsmith

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## Minutes of General Meeting No. 999

15<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**Location** Celtic Club, Second Floor, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne  
**Chair** President, Darren Burgess      **Secretary** Bill Xynos  
**Present:** 12 members      **Apologies:** 4 members

The President opened the meeting at 7:51pm.

### Minutes of General Meeting No. 998 – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Tabled and moved for acceptance by Mr Len Henderson, seconded by Bill Xynos and carried.

### Reports from Council

Detailed report tabled and distributed.

**1000<sup>th</sup> Meeting Celebratory Diner (D Likar)** – preliminary (light) agenda has been prepared and includes presentation of awards, drawing of raffle tickets on donated items and door prizes. Donated items from member Ken Downie were received by the Committee and this is greatly appreciated for this generous offer. Other donations will be received and the Association will also express its appreciation for supporting our important event.

On the matter of the choice of menu, the Celtic Club has provided us with an extensive variety, but we need to restrict the menu to a few key options. Letters will be forwarded to members for first and second preferences. This task is essential for the Celtic Club restaurant to organise the dinner efficiently. Costs for extra drinks will not be covered by the NAV.

Member Dr. John Chapman contacted member John Hope, who has now settled in Queensland. John is sending us his best wishes for our 1000th meeting.

Also, member Bob Hammon passed along John and Pat O'Riley's best wishes, including those from Betty Turvey for our special dinner too.

The President confirmed that photos will be used for presentation at the Dinner and received more photos from member Pat Shields.

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**NAA (R Wilkinson)** – The NAA has been undergoing some changes and Peter Lane seems to be the Interim Secretary. The NAA is now using our new postal address.

**NAV Journal (F Robinson)** – Expressions of interest and articles must be forwarded as soon as possible.

### **New Acquisitions**

John Gerzelis showed a commemorative Herald-Sun medal with a portrait of AFL Swans player Gerald Healy, dated 1989. Frank Robinson showed his purchased One Milliard Specimen note (#521) of Bosnia Herzegovina with a serial no of A0000000. He also showed his publication of The Galata Guide on the Royal Farthing Tokens of James I and Charles I. Ken Marshall showed a Thai gambling token made of mother of pearl, a Colombia ¼ real coin of 1847 and a 1787 private issue 1d token. Darren Burgess showed a number of Philippines notes in uncirculated condition. He then showed a One and a Five Pounds Bridgnorth (private bank) banknotes dated 11/5/1814 and 4/7/1812 correspondingly. The bank closed in 1814. Also, from change, Darren found a One Dollar coin showing a kangaroo with some metal filling – “spew” roo.

### **Special Presentations**

As the award was not available for presentation at the December Meeting, the President invited Ex-President Ross Wilkinson to come forward and present John Gerzelis with the Council Award for his services to the NAV in 2012. Ross reiterated his comments from that Meeting that John was one of the unsung members who did not hesitate to pitch in and assist, particularly at the ANDA Show.

With member Ross Wilkinson being present tonight, the President took the opportunity to present him with an award (since December) – the Past President’s Award. Ross was very pleased and was warmly applauded by all members.

### **General Business**

**International Exhibitions Medals** – Member Dr. John Chapman has a number of medals for sale to the members and orders can be placed

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after the meeting. At a later stage, these medals will be sold by other means.

**ANDA Melbourne Shows (July & October 2013)** – For the Caulfield Racecourse Show, Bill Xynos reminded members to consider volunteering and working on an exhibit. Next month, a roster of volunteering will be circulated and applications for exhibits will be tabled and received. As for the Etihad Stadium Show, Bill has received no information from ANDA, except a standard document on security procedures. Bill stated again that no commitments have been made for this show.

### Syllabus

The President invited member Ross Wilkinson for his presentation “A most remarkable sailor”. Ross recognised that due to the celebrations of the 1000th Meeting in April, this Captain Gerhard Heinrich Heyen had an extraordinary life as a mariner. Of Danish and German Origins (Frisian Islands and Papenburg in NW Germany), the Heyens were a sailing family. An event that relates to Australian maritime history is of the sailing of the schooner Johanna, under the command of Captain Meinders. Sailing from Mauritius for Melbourne on 3 April 1890, its crew contracted yellow fever and it was only by the efforts of the Mate, Herman Heyen, and the Captain’s wife, Margherita Meinders, which enabled the ship to reach Melbourne. Sadly, many of the crew including the Captain died. This event is remembered today in Papenberg with streets in the town named after them.

Gerhard Heyen, the son of Herman Heyen, migrated to Adelaide and married Louisa Harder. He operated the Dalgety’s coastal ship, Kintore. Gerhard and Louisa had a family that included three boys, Peter, Gerhard (born 1900) and John, who all became Master Mariners of square-riggers which is considered unique in Australian shipping.

After an apprenticeship in his father’s ship, Kintore, in January 1924, Gerhard Heyen received the Certificate of Competency as Master of a foreign-going ship in the merchant service, the second such certificate being issued. Later, he was assigned to command his first ship, the three-masted barquentine “Alexa” sailing to the Gilbert Islands with his wife. Soon, he commanded ships from the British Phosphate Commission’s

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fleet, of which the Triaster and the Triadic were later sunk by German raiders in December 1940, after Captain Heyen was called up for active service with the RAN in 1939. His maritime and business operations in the South Pacific islands were significant and proven as invaluable during WWII, as we'll later see.

Gerhard enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy Reserve (Seagoing Branch) and was appointed a Lieutenant in August 1935. When called up in 1939 he served on HMS/HMAS Kanimbla and was Mentioned in Despatches for Good Service, the Lords Commissioners of Admiralty certified the publication of his name and rank in the London Gazette on 1 July 1941. However, during this service he activated an old injury and was brought ashore as being medically unfit for seagoing duty. He was appointed as the Navy's Recruitment Officer at HMAS Lonsdale at Port Melbourne during 1942-43.

It was at that time, when the United States joined the Allied Forces, that Gerhard was recalled for service in the Pacific for the US Navy (5th Amphibious Force). Commander Long, Director of Naval Intelligence, recognised that his pre-war knowledge and experience would assist the US and recommended his transfer to their Command. In fact, he was to become so highly regarded within the Navy's command, that in June 1945, he received a personal praise from Admiral R.K. Turner of the US Navy "with sincere thanks for two years of loyal and efficient assistance". Gerhard participated in the retaking of Tarawa-Gilbert Islands on 20 November 1943, Kwajalein-Marshall Islands on 1 February 1944, Eniwetok Landing-Marshall Islands on 18 February, Saipan Landing-Mariana Islands on 15 June and under difficult circumstances, commanded a US Ship (YMS 323), probably the only Australian to ever do so in wartime. On 24 July, he participated in the Tinian Landing-Mariana Islands, followed by the invasion of Peleliu-Palau Islands on 15 September, the landing at Leyte-Philippine Islands on 20 October, the landing at Iwo Jima-Bonin Islands on 19 February 1945, and Okinawa-Ryukyu Islands on 1 April, in all, a total of 19 amphibious landings. In many of these landings he was on the lead landing craft as First Wave Navigation Officer.

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Whilst he was in Manila assisting with the planning for Operation Olympic, the invasion of the Japanese main islands, the US dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and on 11th of August, the United States agreed to accept the Japanese Surrender Offer and the war ended on the 15th.

Apart from numerous photographic and official documents, Ross displayed a number of short snorters on a 5 Yen Allied Military Currency, the Japanese 50 Sen note and the JIM Philippines note of One Peso. These notes are remarkable in showing specific places where naval and military operations were conducted – a diary.

Needless to say, apart from the Mention in Despatches already mentioned, Gerhard received many awards and medals for his services, such as the US Legion of Merit (Officer Division), the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal. By the end of the War, he held the rank of Lieutenant Commander of the RANR. Ross had his medals on display including the Legion of Merit which was the only foreign decoration the Australian government would allow him to wear. Also on display was the original certificate for the award with the signatures of US President Harry S Truman and US Secretary for the Navy, James Forrestall.

Gerhard Heyen's contribution was quite extraordinary and has effectively assisted in minimising losses in Allied human lives, despite the futile tenacity of the Japanese forces in defending the occupied Pacific islands. His knowledge of the Pacific Islands was invaluable for the US Central Pacific strategy.

Gerhard's post-war employment was in re-establishing coastal operations and shipping in Papua New Guinea as a Marine Superintendent, followed later as Marine Superintendent of the Australian National Line company managing the marine activities of the government shipping line. During the Korean War, he was recalled to service in 1951 until 1954 to provide advice to the Australian military planners on the strategies and logistics for sea-borne landings.

Finally, in retirement, he participated in the restoration works of the sailing ship barque Polly Woodside as a Master of Restoration and in 1978 when it was "launched" at Dukes and Orrs Dry Dock on the Yarra

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River, he was appointed Master of the ship. His achievements reached a new high in 1980 when he was awarded the Order of the British Empire medal for his contribution to this restoration.

His Service Awards were: WWI: Mercantile Marine War Medal; WWII: 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Pacific Star, 1939-45 War Medal, Australian Service Medal. His Honours and Awards were: Australian: Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), Navy Reserve Decoration (RD), Mention in Dispatches (mid – not noted usually); United States: Legion of Merit (Officer Division), Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal (7 Stars & arrowhead), Philippine Liberation Medal.

Ross acknowledged the assistance from the Heyen Family (his wife and family) for the personal items displayed tonight, the sources from the Australian War Memorial, the Department of Veteran Affairs, the National Archives, the National Library, the National Trust, the Centre of Military History of the US Army, Wikipedia, various publications and newspapers.

Ross received many congratulations from the members for a fascinating presentation and on the Vote-of-Thanks, member Ken Marshall was thrilled with the richness in Gerhard Heyen's life and achievements, some of which reminded Ken's association with maritime life during his younger times. Ken was pleased that Ross gave the members the chance to appreciate the complexities of being a maritime officer during peace and war and invited all members for a warm applause. Ross was deeply moved and thanked all for making this presentation another memorable one.

The Syllabus was followed by the Tender Sales, conducted by Pat Shields and assisted by Frank Robinson. The President thanked all members and declared the meeting as closed at 9:29pm.

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### **Expedition seeks source of thousand-year-old coins in Aboriginal Australia**

Back in March I noted an article regarding an anthropologist seeking the origin of a remote Australian coin hoard. It seems like the Australian media have caught up with articles appearing recently in The Age and



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other papers. Here's the original article from the Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) website:

Like a detective working a cold case, an Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis anthropologist hopes to unravel the mystery of how a handful of coins, some dating back more than 1,000 years, wound up on a remote beach along Australia's northern coastline.

Armed with a grant from the Australian Geographic Society, Ian McIntosh will lead an expedition in July to the long-abandoned Wessel Islands where the coins were found.

The ancient copper coins have little monetary value, but in archaeological terms they are priceless, McIntosh said. The coins may even touch upon the arrival of Europeans in Australia, as British explorer James Cook is credited with being the first European to have encountered the country's eastern coastline in 1770.

The coins raise the possibility of shipwrecks that may have occurred along an early maritime trading route and bring to mind the ancient trading network that linked East Africa, Arabia, India and the Spice Islands over 1,000 years ago. Aboriginal folklore also speaks of a hidden cave near where the coins were found that is filled with doubloons and weaponry of an ancient era, McIntosh said.

In any case, McIntosh begins his quest for answers with a nearly 70-year-old map where X marks the spot but few other clues about the coins that now reside in a box in the back of a museum in Sydney, because people don't know what to make of them, he said.

McIntosh, who is Australian, will be returning to the area where he lived for several years while working on his Ph.D. and is an adjunct anthropology faculty member in the IU School of Liberal Arts.

The coins were found in 1944. Maurie Isenberg, an Australian soldier assigned to a forward radar station at Jensen Bay on the Wessel Islands, spotted several coins in the sand while fishing in his spare time one day. Having little interest in coins at the time, he placed them in an airtight tin, where they remained until 1979, when he sent the coins off to have them identified.

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Shortly after finding the coins, Isenberg drew an X on a map of the area that had been drawn by another soldier. McIntosh now possesses that map.

Four of the coins were identified as Dutch East India Company coins, with one dating back to 1690. The other five coins, dating from the 900s to 1300s, were African coins from the once flourishing Kilwa Sultanate, now a World Heritage ruin south of Zanzibar in Tanzania. The copper coins, the first to be produced in sub-Saharan Africa, were never in use beyond the immediate locality of East Africa, and only one has ever been found elsewhere, in Oman.

How and why do five Kilwa coins find their way to the Australian Outback? McIntosh said he believes an archaeological site survey, which has never been done, and an excavation will begin to answer those questions.

In partnership with the senior Aboriginal custodians for the Wessel Islands, McIntosh's team, composed of Australians and Americans, will include a historian, anthropologist, archaeologist and geomorphologist, as well as Aboriginal rangers. They will survey the site where the coins were found, with a view to applying for an excavation permit from the relevant heritage authorities and planning the logistics of the excavation. The initial work to be done includes site surveys, mapping, recording, soil testing and coastal erosion analysis.

There are so many unanswered questions regarding to the African coins' discovery, McIntosh said. "Multiple theses have been put forward by noted scholars, and the major goal is to piece together more of the puzzle. Is a shipwreck involved? Are there more coins? All options are on the table, but only the proposed expedition can help us answer some of these perplexing questions." – IUPUI website 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013

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### Victorian Numismatic Diary

10 <sup>th</sup> June	Peninsula Stamp Club Stamps, Coins & Cards Fair	Dromana Uniting Church Hall, Corner Point Nepean Road & McCulloch Street, Dromana.
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Bendigo Collectables Fair	Kangaroo Flat Leisure Centre, 9 Browning St, Kangaroo Flat.

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6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> July	ANDA Melbourne Coin Fair	Caulfield Racecourse, Caulfield.
9 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Downies 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Auction (314)	Lower Ground Floor, Block Arcade 98- 100 Elizabeth St, Melbourne.
20 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> July	APTA Melbourne Stamp, Coin & Collectables Fair	Malvern Town Hall, corner of Glenferrie Rd & High St, Malvern.

### Minutes of General Meeting No. 1,000

19<sup>th</sup> April 2013

**Location** Celtic Club, Second Floor, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne  
**Chair** President, Darren Burgess      **Secretary** Bill Xynos  
**Present:** 28 members      **Apologies:** 6 members      **Visitors:** 14

The President opened the meeting at 8:00pm and welcomed all present, including all visitors.

#### Preliminary

**Suspension of Standing Orders** - A motion was put by Vice-President Frank Robinson to suspend the Standing Orders, seconded by Treasurer David Likar and carried.

#### A Brief History of the NAV

Entrees were served as Vice-President Frank Robinson presented a brief history of the Association:

In February 1914 a small group of numismatists formed the Numismatic Society of Victoria but after a decline from 1928, the remaining members decided to affiliate the NSV with the Historical Society of Victoria in 1931. In 1944, the NSV was disaffiliated and following a couple of years of hard work, the NAV was founded in 1946. At the first meeting held on 17 Mat 1946, the Rev F Charles Bremer was elected President, Roy Farman Secretary and Jack warren Treasurer. At the end of the first year, membership stood at 90.

Despite a small membership decline in the mid-1950s, by the next decade, it has risen to 115 and in 1967, peaked to 302 due to the dramatic interest in numismatics, thanks to the change to the 1966 decimal currency.

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Our meetings were initially held at the Victorian Railways Institute, followed by the Kurralong House in Collins Street. In July 1950, we moved to the National Gallery in Latrobe Street and towards the decimal currency change, meetings were held twice per month. In 1990, we moved to the State Building in Treasury Place and after four years, to the Australian Postal Institute building in Lonsdale Street. In May 1997, we moved to the Celtic Club.

Our meetings were highlighted with interesting presentations and exhibits; and to bolster participation, member Max Stern offered to provide a trophy for the best numismatic paper presented during a year.

The Association celebrated its 25th anniversary in May 1971 with a dinner and BBQ at President Frank Heard's property. Our 500th meeting on 5 April 1977 was organised by Ray Jewell with assistance from Betty Turvey and Terry Pepperell. In 1996, our 50th anniversary was highlighted by our two remaining foundation members Ian Young (No 17) and Don Wicks (No 26) who received the first awards of 50 years

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continuous membership badges. Our 60th anniversary in May 2006 was also celebrated.

On exhibitions the NAV staged annual exhibitions. Then, the Association was present at NAA Shows and Exhibitions in Melbourne but following an industry restructure, it staged competitive exhibits at the annual ANDA Fairs.

The Association struck its first commemorative medallion in 1949 to mark the centenary of the issue of the first Victorian token in 1849. So far, the NAV has struck 29 medallions that commemorate a wide range of events as well as some NAV anniversaries.

The Association's Journal progressed from monthly issues and between 1975 and 1980, to bimonthly issues. In 1981, it was decided to move towards a quarterly newsletter publication and an annual journal that contains numismatic presentations.

Vice-President Frank Robinson concluded his overview by expressing his confidence that future generations will still be involved in numismatics.

### Service Awards

After the main course was cleared continuous membership awards were presented as follows:

15 years to B Xynos (No 1112, joined 19/12/1997, meeting no 822)

25 years to P Goldsmith (No 1023, joined 16/5/1986, meeting no 683)

40 years to P Batchelor (No 824, joined 20/7/1973, meeting no 416)





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40 years to K Marshall (No 797, joined 15/10/1971, meeting no 378)  
50 years to L Henderson (No 409, joined 17/8/1962, meeting no 196)



Door prizes kindly and raffle prizes, kindly donated by Downies and I.S. Wright as well as some members, were also presented. Mr I Armstrong also kindly provided an album of tokens he had issued and very generously invited members and visitors to take one as a memento of the evening.

### **Anecdotes**

The president invited members past and present to share some of their memories of the NAV.

Firstly, Mr B McElholum reminisced about the time when he attended the NAV as a visitor in 1940s with much encouragement by his mother. The most memorable and enjoyable time at the NAV was his close friendship with member Roy Farman. A strong numismatist residing in a large property, when being visited by Bruce often, Roy would bring out a selection of lovely coins. Then, the Association went through certain changes, Bruce reluctantly no longer continued to attend meetings but he was honoured to attend this important event.

Then, Frank Robinson gave us an insight into the development of the Association during his early membership years. One of the most impressive people Frank has met was Ray Jewell, who was eager to teach

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and nurture the hobby among many NAV members. Also, Stan Church is fondly remembered when he was eager to give coins of interest, and there was always something Stan had for Frank.

Other members that shared their memories included Len Henderson, Mr Armstrong, Mr Haymes, Mr Prange, Mr Hammon, Dr. Chapman and Mr Howell.

### **Thanks**

After the resumption of standing orders the President gave a special thanks to our member Ken Downie for his substantial contribution towards the cost of the Dinner as well as for donating some numismatic items for the Raffle, including a half-sovereign coin. Also, Darren thanked all other contributors for the Raffle and the Door Prizes, with a special thanks to member Gillian Davis for forwarding a donation for a lovely chocolate cake!





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**NAV 1,000<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

