

***AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST***  
***NEWSLETTER***



**Good King Wenceslas Looks Out:**1929 Czech medal commemorating the completion of St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague.

# AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE

Syllabus 2014 .....	2
NAVigator .....	3
Adelaide Treasure Hunter finds \$18,000 in City's Parks .....	4
Why is the Charlotte Medal it of such immense significance to Australia? .....	5
Minutes of General Meeting No. 1,004.....	7
Obituary – John Hope .....	10
Minutes of General Meeting No. 1,005.....	11
The Pre-History of the US Dollar.....	16
Numismatic Diary.....	17
Obituary – John O’Riley .....	18
Minutes of General Meeting No. 1,006.....	19
The Inaugural ANDA International Coin & Banknote Fair .....	22
Morwell Christmas Meeting .....	23
ANDA International Coin & Banknote Fair .....	24

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 2014

No.	Date	Topic	Speaker
1,009	21 <sup>st</sup> February	Annual General Meeting & Tender Sale	
1,010	21 <sup>st</sup> March	The Work of James Berry, Designer	Len Henderson
1,011	11 <sup>th</sup> April*	ANZAC Orations: Sir John Monash & Tender Sale	Alan Flint
1,012	16 <sup>th</sup> May	Royal Photographic Society Medal 1863-1963	David Likar
1,013	20 <sup>th</sup> June	To Be Announced & Tender Sale	

\* Meeting moved to 2nd Friday of the month to avoid clashing with Good Friday.

## NAVigator

2013 was a pretty big year numismatically, with many anniversaries including the bicentenary of the striking of Australian's first coinage, the New South Wales holey dollar and dump; the centenary of the printing of the Commonwealth's first banknote as well as our own 1,000<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There were not one but two major coin fairs that the NAV attended this year, giving members an opportunity to display their collections to the public. We also saw the passing of some notable members and some of them are remembered in this newsletter.

I recently attended the Numismatic Association of Australia's biennial conference, this year held in Brisbane. I have to say I was most impressed with the whole event. There were papers presented on a broad variety of topics from ancients to the works of a Brisbane silversmith from an art historian's perspective. The tokens of E.W. Cole hold a special place in Victorian numismatics and were covered in depth and then there was also an analysis of the metal content of ancient roman coins to see if there was a link between the alloy and the location it was minted in.

There was something for everyone and it was also a great opportunity to meet fellow numismatists from around the country and put faces to names. Next year the NAA are holding a joint conference with the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand (RNSNZ) in Wellington and I for one will certainly be going.

I can also report that the Morwell Numismatic Society did themselves proud again this year with their annual Christmas meeting, a highlight of my numismatic calendar. I was fortunate enough to be invited to present a talk and the hospitality was first class as always.

So what will 2014 bring? Well from an historic perspective next year sees the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WWI, as well as the birth of organised numismatics in Victoria with the foundation of the Numismatic Society of Victoria in February 1914. But for now we wish you and your families all the best for the festive season.

Darren Burgess –President

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## **Adelaide Treasure Hunter finds \$18,000 in City's Parks**

It's the hobby with a magnetic pull that is lucrative, historically fascinating and when done right, even a form of public service.

And according to metal detecting enthusiast Mark Williams, the stigma of being "scavengers" is slowly fading as appreciation for historical finds grows in the online world.

Mr Williams is among the detectors often found "hunting" in the Adelaide parklands and along the Torrens.

He has uncovered \$18,000 worth of current and historic coins and other artefacts in the past year alone, including \$1800 in just a few days after a major music festival in Bonython Park.

The Mad March festival season and other major events are the best times, he says.

"You'll find the morning after the Clipsal 500 there are detectors everywhere," he says.

But Mr Williams, who tests new detectors for producer Minelab, insists it's not about the money, but the hunt, the history and the good that's done along the way.

That includes clearing parks of rubbish, syringes, knives, and even the odd bullet, he says.

Detectors are often called upon to help people find lost jewellery and phones in parks and on beaches, and Mr Williams says he always takes his own jewellery finds to the police unless they are buried deep and clearly historical pieces from decades or centuries past.

"I've also been asked to find where pipes run under schools and things like that."

The 49 year old, who runs a security door and blinds business, says he gets the biggest rush from the historical treasures he digs up, researches, and posts about on his blogs.

Around the city he has found 19th century traders' tokens from early Adelaide, Victorian and Tasmanian businesses - leather and ointment

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

makers and ironmongers - that were both advertisements and legal tender worth a penny.

"We find a lot of cricket buckles with bats and balls and players' faces on them," he says.

"The one thing I love most about detecting is history and I've learnt so much about South Australian history."

Other finds were a crossbelt plate from a Napoleonic-era uniform, an infantry button from the early Royal South Australian Volunteer Militia, an 1811 half-crown, pennies dated as early as 1803 and an 1856 gold sovereign.

None of that would have happened if a mate hadn't won a metal detector in a raffle when they were in their 20s.

"He didn't want it so I bought it from him for \$25," Mr Williams says.

"I had a bad back and getting out and walking helped."

Now his father George, 84, has become an enthusiast too and they go hunting together.

They even record "live digs" on YouTube.

- City Messenger – Adelaide, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013

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### **Why is the Charlotte Medal of such immense significance to Australia?**

The Charlotte medal in copper was recently up for Auction, but why is it considered so important? The Charlotte medal in silver is believed to have been engraved on board the First Fleet transport Charlotte as she lay at anchor in Botany Bay before sailing into Port Jackson and unloading her cargo of convicts at Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788.

Inscribed with an account of the voyage from England and an image of the Charlotte, it is acclaimed as Australia's first colonial work of art, and furthermore, as a unique record of the arrival of the settlers who founded modern Australia.

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

The 74mm wide medal is believed to have been made from a surgical dish by convicted thief Thomas Barrett at the behest of John White, the ship's surgeon. White wanted a memento of the historic landing and chose Barrett for the task after he'd displayed remarkable skill at forging coins during the arduous sea voyage.



*Images Courtesy of Noble Numismatics Pty Ltd*

Alas, Barrett lasted little more than a month in the convict colony, meeting his fate at the end of a hangman's rope for stealing beef and peas. Not only was he responsible for the historic silver medal, but also a smaller copper version, thought to have been commissioned by White's personal servant, William Broughton.

Material for the second medal could have come from copper sheathing used to protect the ship's hull. The finished piece measured 47mm in diameter and featured an abridged form of the inscription on the silver medal, but no ship.

*Sailed the Charlotte of London from spit head the 13 of May 1787. Bound for Botany Bay in the Island of new holland Arriv'd at Teneriff the 4th June in Lat 28.13N Long 16.23 W depart'd it 10 Dec arriv'd at riojaneiro 6 of Aug in Lat 22.54 S Long 42.38 W depart'd it the 5 of Sept arriv'd at the Cape of good hope the 14 Octr in Lat 34.29 S Lon S 18.29 E depart'd it th 13 of Nov and made the South Cape of New Holland the '8 of Jany 1788 in Lat 43.32 S Long 146.56E arrived Botany Bay the 20 of Jany the Charlotte*

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

*in Co inLat 34.00 South Long 151.00 East distance from Great Britain miles 13106.*

The silver Charlotte medal belonging to surgeon John White, who returned to England, remained unknown until it appeared in the famous collection of the Marquess of Milford Haven. Details were published in 1919 in the first volume covering his collection of naval medals.

William Broughton remained in the colony, rising to become an official of significant stature in the Government of New South Wales. His copper Charlotte medal was discovered during the 1940s on the site of a farm in Camden with which he was associated.

- Perth Mint Blog, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013

*Despite interest from both collectors and institutions at the time of publication the Charlotte Medal remained unsold. – Editor*

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### **Minutes of General Meeting No. 1,004**

**16<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

**Location** Celtic Club, Second Floor, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne  
**Chair** President, Darren Burgess      **Secretary** Bill Xynos  
**Present:** 10 members      **Apologies:** 3 members

The President opened the meeting at 8:00pm by welcoming all present.

#### **Minutes of General Meeting No. 1,003 - 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

With finalised minutes not been produced, they'll be tabled at the next meeting for acceptance, with apologies.

**Correspondence** - Detailed report tabled and distributed. In addition, Geelong Numismatic Society's Monthly letter (6/13 minutes), NAAC2013 Conference (9-10/11/2013), NAAC2013 Medallion, Bathurst Collectables Swap Meet & Gem Expo 2013 (30/11-1/12/2013), ANS Qld Branch 2013 Dual Commemorative Medal (Centenary of ANS 1913-2013 & Bicentenary of NSW Holey Dollar and Dump).

**Matters Arising from Correspondence** - None

# AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

## **Reports from Council**

Detailed report tabled and distributed. Information in relation to the ANS medal, the NAAC2013 Conference and medal were tabled.

## **Announcement from the President**

The President kindly allowed member John Chapman to announce to the members with sadness, that our esteemed member John Hope passed away ten days ago, at the age of 89. John praised his long-time friend and numismatist, John Hope, who has devoted a considerable time to negotiate with Melbourne Museum for the planned relocation of our Association's meeting place at the Infozone. His contribution to numismatics was so extensive that he was awarded with the prestigious NAA's Paul Simon Silver Award. He has left a lot of friends from the NAA. Vice-President Frank Robinson added that John was member no.749 (elected on 4/6/1969) and was awarded as an Honorary Life Member for his contribution. When Frank visited a recent QNS meeting, John Hope was nominated as a member, showing his continuous numismatic activity.

Also, President Darren Burgess announced to the member that member P. Webster (member no.525 elected on 20/11/1964) passed away, as a recent correspondence was returned with that notification.

Darren asked the members to observe a minute's silence in respect.

## **New Acquisitions**

Frank Robinson was awarded the 40-year membership badge from the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. Darren Burgess purchased the NAV 1960 Ross-Smith medal, added by an ANS Centenary (commemorative) medal on the Bicentenary of the Holey Dollar and Dump, produced in Hong Kong and of high quality. He finally showed the 1942 City of Melbourne Centenary medal awarded to Councillor F G H Harvey, with a related badge. John Gerzelis showed an uncirculated San Marino 1000 Lire silver coin dated 1980 that commemorates 150th years of the Birth of St. Benedict, a well-designed coin.



# AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

## **NAV Council 2014 Nominations**

The President announced the members that nomination forms have been tabled for their consideration. Applications must be submitted by the end of October 2013 General Meeting.

## **General Business**

Member John Chapman wrote to the CAB magazine expressing his disappointment on numismatic vandalism done by opportunists by using original coins and changing them for promoting new products.

In reporting on the ANDA International Coin & Note Show (Etihad Stadium, Medallion Room, 18-20 October 2013), Secretary Bill Xynos reported that due to the limited volunteering response, he recommends that we participate in exhibiting and club information only. Should we have enough volunteers to assist with the ANDA booth, this may be beneficial to us in terms of sponsorship. The display exhibition will not be competitive and ANDA has not yet responded on a 'monetary' award for the best display of the show. A map has been provided only and with limited details so far, access to the venue will be limited and temporary for exhibitors. Parking is available nearby but will be costly. Bill recommended to the members that we concentrate on our exhibits and club information table.

## **Donation Auction**

Before the Donation Auction started, the President thanked all for their input and especially Ross Wilkinson. He added his appreciation for all those members and dealers who have donated significantly to this Auction, which was ably conducted by Pat Shields and David Likar. Light refreshments were provided courtesy of the Celtic Club. The President closed the meeting at 9:20pm.

## Obituary – John Hope



John Hope joined the Numismatic Association of Victoria (NAV) as member number 749 on 4 June 1969. John served as a member of the NAV Council in 1998 and 1999 and was also an elected member of the Numismatic Association of Australia Inc (NAA) Council from 1997 to 2006. He served as Vice President of the NAA from 1999 to 2006 and as Assistant editor of the NAA Journal from 1998 to 2003.

John Hope's numismatic collecting interests centred on Australiana. He was interested in the pre-decimal coinage (especially varieties in the bronze coinage), Australasian tradesmen's tokens, and historical medals.

His research on the Acclimatization Society Medals and Sir James Youl resulted in two awards from the NAV – the Max Stern Trophy in 2000 and the Stan Church Memorial Trophy in 2004.

In 2006, the NAV presented John with its Award of Merit (for outstanding and loyal service) which included Honorary Life Membership.

During John's time as Vice President of the NAA, Museum Victoria moved to modernise its services to the public and, in the process, this meant downgrading the Museum's numismatic collection and facilities. In response, the NAA formed a sub-committee with John as its Chairman. As a result of their meetings with the Museum executive, the Museum appointed a consultant numismatist and allowed some access to the collection. As Peter Lane wrote at the time, "all numismatists who in future visit the Victorian museum numismatic collection can thank John Hope and his team for the effort they put in to facilitate access to the collection by collectors and researchers alike".

As a result of his efforts in relation to Museum Victoria, as well as for his other services to the NAA, John was awarded the Silver Ray Jewell Medal in 2003; this was only the second such award (the first being posthumously to Ray Jewell). In 2001, John received the Council Award from the NAV for his efforts in endeavouring to save the position of Numismatic Curator at Museum Victoria.

John's late wife Faye was also a member from 1992 until her death in 1996.

In 2012, John moved to Queensland and joined the Queensland Numismatic Society. He died in early August 2013 at the age of 89.

– Frank Robinson

## Minutes of General Meeting No. 1,005

20<sup>th</sup> September 2013

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

**Chair** Vice-President, Frank Robinson      **Secretary** Bill Xynos

**Present:** 10 members      **Apologies:** 4 members      **Visitors:** 1

The Vice-President opened the meeting at 7:55pm by welcoming all present. Members were reminded to sign the Celtic Club's visitor's book as per requirements.

### Announcement from the Vice President

The Vice-President Frank Robinson announced to the members the sad news that our popular and esteemed member, John O'Riley passed away on Monday 9th September and that his funeral service was held last Tuesday. Four NAV past presidents, members and friends attended the service.

John was elected as member no.686 on 2 Nov 1966, was the 26th President of the Association for 3 years (1997-1999) and received the Council Award in 1981, 1995, 2010; the President's Award in 2000, 2006 and 2008 and received the Award of merit in 2001. He was very active participant of the Association's activities behind the scenes and for years, instrumental in handling the Auction lots. Notable presentations from John were many short ones, including a major one on 'Edward de Carle'.

John was described by many members tonight as a gentle giant and a very decent family man. Member Bob Hammon gave a eulogy at the service and noticed how large John's family was, and of its friendliness. Member John Chapman added that John was always one of our early volunteers at the old NAA Coin Fairs. Pat mentioned that at the service, Israeli coins with the 'JOR' countermarking were put at his grave instead of flowers. Frank asked members to be upstanding and observe a minute's silence in respect.

### Minutes of General Meeting No. 1,003–July 2013& 1,006 – August 2013

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

# AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

## **Reports from Council**

Detailed report tabled and distributed. Member Joan Henderson commented briefly on the proposed changes to the Journal and gave its support. This point was also supported by other members. Frank commented that all comments will be taken on board at the Council and that it's likely that the issue for Year 2013 will be the last one for the 'Australian Numismatist' as we now know it. Frank asked from members for articles to be submitted very soon as his intention is to release the 2013 issue by the end of the year, if possible.

Secretary Bill Xynos read part of a received letter requesting the conversion of US\$100,000 in 1854 to today's Australian currency. Frank commented that this is complicated and members were invited to look into this. Bill has also tabled the latest schedule of the NAAC2013 Conference. Exhibitions Organiser, Bill Xynos reported that final arrangements have been made regarding our participation (exhibiting and club info table manning) due to the small volunteering force. A map of the room was shown while copies of the venue with access details were tabled. He added that access arrangements will be provided soon. Members were asked for a show of hands for volunteering and exhibiting. Finally, interested members should get in touch with him after the meeting and next week for details.

## **New Acquisitions**

Pat Shields – Latest eBay purchases were tabled for members to see.

## **General Business**

Member Pat Shields contacted member Hans Prange who has been disposing his collection gradually. Hans has allowed some of his display cases to be made available to members at the cost of \$50 each. Pat brought along two cases and interested members should see him after the meeting. There is also a case of 2ft by 4ft available.

Member Pat Shields has recently seen a Volunteers medal from the recent Melb Commonwealth Games and asked of its possible value. Frank Robinson replied that over 15,000 medals were produced in one type/style.

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

Frank Robinson read a numismatic article in the 'Good Weekender' and tabled some copies for members to take.

Finally, four of the remaining 'JOR' Israeli coins were available for members who did not have one.

### **Syllabus**

The Vice-President invited member Bill Xynos for his presentation tonight, Moroccan Delights. Bill started with some key details on Morocco. The country is situated on the northwest corner of Africa (south of Spain), has an area of 172,413 sq. mi. (712,550 sq. km.) and a population of 28.98 million. The capital is Rabat and its economy is essentially agricultural with phosphates, fresh and preserved vegetables, canned fish and raw material exported. Morocco is a Constitutional Monarchy with an elected Parliament. The King holds vast executive and legislative powers, including the right to dissolve the Parliament. Since 1757, Morocco had 13 rulers.

Historically, Morocco's strategic position at the gateway to Western Europe has been the principal determinant of its violent, frequently unfortunate history. With its fertile plain between the rugged Atlas Mountains and the sea, this strategic region was settled by the Phoenicians and invaded by Romans, Vandals, Visigoths, Byzantine Greeks and Islamic Arabs, who successively conquered it. Modern Morocco is a remnant of an early empire formed by the Arabs at the close of the 7th century which encompassed all of northwest Africa and most of the Iberian Peninsula.

Bill showed maps detailing the expansion of the Almoravid (1040-1147) and Almohad (1121-1269) empires. Following internal fights for control, the Iberian Peninsula was reclaimed by the Spanish and the empire declined. During the 17th and 18th centuries, Morocco was the base of the famous Sale pirates and for protecting shipping, by the 19th century, European powers were seeking control while eyeing at the rich resources. Foreign capital flew in, European powers applied political pressure and by the early 1900's Morocco was divided into French and Spanish spheres of interest. Support by Great Britain for the French was in conflict with the German Empire but in the end, the French made

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

Morocco a Protectorate and the Spanish established and expanded their enclaves along the coast. Morocco became a protectorate of France and Spain in 1912. Following WWII, attempts for independence coincided with internal conflicts and the deaths of some foreigners. In the end, Muhammad V returned from exile and on 2 March 1956, Morocco became independent. The Spanish agreed a month later.

Until 1921, the monetary system was based on 1 Rial, equal to 10 Dirhams and one Dirham equal to 50 Mazunas. From 1921, a Dirham was equal to 100 Francs and in 1974, was equal to 100 Centimes and 100 Santimat.

Early Moroccan coins were bronze and were cast in a similar fashion to that in early China. Also, some silver and gold coins were hammer-struck locally. Since AH1218 (1803) under Suleiman II, the seal of Solomon is portrayed in most bronze coinage and many banknotes. In medieval Jewish, Christian and Islamic legends, the seal was a magical ring said to have been possessed by King Solomon giving him the power to command demons. In Islamic belief, the seal is also the Star of David. Bill showed examples of the bronze cast coins of one, two and four Fallus with various dates.

Following the European influence, a monetary reform was undertaken in 1881. The new coins were minted in Great Britain, Germany and France. Locally, the Fes mint struck such coins too. Images of bronze coins of ½, 1, 2, 2 ½, 5 and 10 Mazunas, followed by the silver coins of ½, 1, 2 ½, 5 and 10 Dirhams were shown. The bronze coins utilised three different designs. The first two differ in that for the first, ornamental borders were used close to the edge of the coin. That changed to a 'Greek key' border for the second design. In addition, the westernised denomination is shown on the second design while it's absent on the first. For dates, the westernised date of AH appears on both. The third design shows the dominant Star of David on one side, complemented by an artistic star made of 2 triangles. For the silver coins, five designs were produced but don't appear on all denominations. For the ½ and 1 dirham, designs are alternated, while on the 2 ½, 5 and 10 dirhams, elements of the first

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

design are switched around for making the third design, while the second design is different.

As Morocco became a Protectorate of the French Republic, the Mazuna-Dirham system changed to the French decimal Franc system. A variety of metals were used for the coinage due to the effect of the wars (nickel, copper-nickel, aluminium-bronze and aluminium). Silver was introduced for the 5, 10 and 20 Francs of AH1347 (1928), 1352 (1933), and later, the 100 Francs of AH1370 (1950) was complemented by the 200 Francs of AH1372 (1953). Muhammad V's portrait appeared on the 1 Dirham of AH1380 [1960] and the 500 Francs of AH1376 [1956].

In some coinage, true elements of artistic design representing the country and its religion appear. On the banknotes, their size has given the opportunity for the French to respect the Moroccan tradition and allow a wide variety of colours, background rosettes and elaborate patterns, impressive examples of arches and ornamental borders. These numismatic examples show the 'Moroccan Delights', some of which were displayed during the presentation, while others were tabled for members to see.

In certain periods, Morocco relied upon its local printers for emergency issues. In 1943, E A Wright (USA) printed some colourful ones similar to the French, while the American Bank Note Company did two notes of the highest denominations (1000 and 5000 Francs) with a typical border and a geometrical vignette. In 1944, a basic emergency issue of half, one and two Francs was released with no serial numbers. From 1948 and for a decade, French printing continued and in 1958, a provisional issue by overprinting the two highest denominations of 5000 and 10000 Francs heralded the monetary reform from the Franc to the Dirham currency. In 1960, the 5 and 10 Dirhams show King Muhammad V wearing the traditional fez. The 50 Dirhams was issued later on 1965 with King Hassan II, for years after his accession. The 'Muhammad' notes continued well into 1969. Following the late 1960's, the quality of banknote design is somehow degraded by the new issues from Thomas De La Rue, and this was where the presentation ended.

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

Bill's presentation also showed some architectural monuments and buildings left by the Moorish empire in southern Spain and Morocco.

Questions from members were focused mainly on the Seal of Solomon (Star of David). Member Pat Shields gave the Vote of Thanks by thanking Bill for an impressive talk on a complex subject and with all members, learned a great deal now about Moroccan currency. He then asked members along for the traditional applause. The Door Prize was won by member Joan Henderson. The Vice-President closed the meeting at 9:30pm. Light refreshments were provided courtesy of the Celtic Club.

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### The Pre-History of the US Dollar



In 1620, the Mayflower set sail from Rotherhithe in East London bound for the New World, carrying religious dissenters in search of a new life overseas. Those first settlers took with them gold and English

coins. But they weren't wealthy and they soon ran out of hard money, leaving them without means of buying food, animal skins and other necessities from the indigenous people of the American continent.

Jason Goodwin, author of *Greenback: the Almighty Dollar and the Invention of America* sums up the difficulty: "They simply didn't have any cash. They weren't very loaded when they came over in the first place. And it became quite awkward for the colonists to do exchanges between themselves... it was all very well to barter one thing for another, but of course quite soon you get into quite complex exchanges, and that's where money is so incredibly useful."

Soon after their arrival, the settlers discovered that certain kinds of shell - known as wampum - had great symbolic significance for many native Americans and as such could be exchanged by the English colonists for the things they needed, such as food. In fact, the wampum became so important in the early days of trading in what is now the Eastern



## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

seaboard of the US that in 1637 the Massachusetts Bay Colony declared them to be legal tender.

As trade among the settlers themselves became increasingly important, they started to use other goods for bartering. In the northern colonies they used corn and cod, for example, and in the more southerly colonies they also favoured tobacco. Many of these goods were declared legal tender at one time or another, although not all proved successful.

Goodwin also points out that when the settlers tried using nails some were tempted to burn down wooden barns in order to extract the nails, which had a value similar to money.

– BBC News Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013

### Numismatic Diary

5 <sup>th</sup> January	Essendon Stamp & Coin Fair	Ukrainian Hall, 3-11 Russell Street, Essendon, VIC
18 <sup>th</sup> January	Peninsula Stamp Club - Stamps, Coins & Phonecards Fair	Dromana Uniting Church Hall, corner Point Nepean Road & McCulloch Street, Dromana.
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Bentleigh Stamp, Coin & Cards Fair	Bentleigh McKinnon Youth Centre, Higgins Rd, Bentleigh, VIC
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Essendon Stamp & Coin Fair	Ukrainian Hall, 3-11 Russell Street, Essendon, VIC
8 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> February	APTA Melbourne Stamp, Coin and Collectables Show	Malvern Town Hall corner of Glenferrie Rd & High St, Malvern, VIC
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Bentleigh Stamp, Coin & Cards Fair	Bentleigh McKinnon Youth Centre, Higgins Rd, Bentleigh, VIC
18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Downies Auction 316	Lower Ground Floor, Block Arcade, 98-100 Elizabeth St, Melbourne, VIC
1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Perth ANDA Coin, Note and Stamp Show	Belmont Park, Victoria Park Drive, Burswood, WA
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Essendon Stamp & Coin Fair	Ukrainian Hall, 3-11 Russell Street, Essendon, VIC
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Bentleigh Stamp, Coin & Cards Fair	Bentleigh McKinnon Youth Centre, Higgins Rd, Bentleigh, VIC
25 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> March	Noble Auction 105	State Library NSW, Sydney

## Obituary – John O’Riley

John O'Riley joined the Numismatic Association of Victoria as member number 686 on 2 November 1966. John served as a member of the NAV Council from 1970 to 1973, 1977 to 1979, 1986 and 2000 to 2008, as Vice President 1981, and was the 26th President from 1997 to 1999. John was awarded the Order of Merit (which included Honorary Life Membership) in 2001.

As with many who started their numismatic collections in the mid-1960s, John's interests initially centred on pre-decimal coins. Later he collected Australasian tradesmen's tokens and United States coins, amongst others. He was also a member of the American Numismatic Association.

John gave a number of talks to meetings, mainly in the 1960s and 1970s; his last paper was on the tokens of Edward DeCarle in 2007.

For many years, John organised the Tender Sales at the monthly meetings, for which he was presented the Council Award in 1995. John also received the Council Award in 1981 and 2010 (for continuing services to the NAV). He also received the President's Award three times – 2000, 2006 (for outstanding contributions to the NAV throughout the years) and 2008 (for numerous jobs done, behind the scenes, over many years). John was a “gentle giant” who worked hard behind the scenes for the NAV and will be sadly missed.



# AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

## Minutes of General Meeting No. 1,006

18<sup>th</sup> October 2013

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

**Chair** President, Darren Burgess **Secretary** Bill Xynos

**Present:** 10 members **Apologies:** 5 members **Visitors:** 1

The President opened the meeting at 7:55pm and thanked our visitor from Tasmania, Mr Hunt.

### Minutes of General Meeting No. 1,005 – September 2013

Tabled and accepted by members, as moved by Bill Xynos and seconded by Ken Marshall.

### Reports from Council (incl. Correspondence)

Detailed report tabled and distributed.

### Business Arising from the Report

#### *Australian Numismatist*

The President outlined that the Council discussed at the October Council meeting on the future of our annual Journal, the 'Australian Numismatist'. After consideration for many months, it is recommending that we cease this publication but continue the concept by using contributing articles for our quarterly Newsletter. In addition, should this be accepted by the members, the last issue of the Australian Numismatist will be for year 2013 and submitting articles must reach its editor (Frank Robinson) by the end of December. The reasons for this decision were: a) offering a continuous and better numismatic benefit to the membership, especially to our non-attending members, b) the increasing cost for publishing the Journal, and c) the difficulties encountered by our editor for completing the Journal. The members present discussed this and found the Council's proposals as reasonable. The President's recommendation was backed up by Treasurer David Likar and accepted by the members with no objection from the floor.

### New Acquisitions

Ken Marshall showed a very old Indian rupee coin (AH952). Pat Shields showed a Chinese black tea brick dating from the early 20th century. Frank Robinson showed a Wellington tradesman's ½ penny, some silver-plated Mafeking medalets, an Edward (Prince of Wales) 1920 visit to Bendigo medalet and a Victorian brass game token imitation of half guinea. David Likar received a silver 1991 dollar coin, kindly donated by member Alan Flint that will be auctioned at our next Donation Auction. Darren Burgess showed an early edition of a book on Australian Coins and Banknotes – profit and pleasure, and a group of silver coins such as a silver jubilee

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

QEII Crown (1977) dated 1877, a French 5 francs of 1967 with inscription errors, which after inspection, members declared them as roughly-made forgeries.

### General Business

**ANDA International Coin & Banknote Show (18-20 Oct)** – Bill Xynos presented the latest arrangements for the Show, including a description of the venue (Medallion Room), a map showing settings for our exhibits and our location with respect to the stand holders. Bill reaffirmed the given directions for accessing the venue and the room, including parking arrangements. Finally, Bill informed the members on the complications raised regarding the manning of the ANDA booth, for which we have provided a minimum support, due to our scarce volunteering for our information table. He thanked the members for offering their support for this event and expressed his hope for a positive outcome for us.

**NAV Council Nominations for 2014** – Darren asked the members that it's in their interest to consider nominating for a position in 2014. With forms tabled, they were reminded that submissions close by the end of this meeting.

### Syllabus – “Bridgnorth Revisited” by Darren Burgess

Darren gave a brief overview of the provincial banking system in England. The earliest records confirm that Thomas Smith of Nottingham issued loans to customers from 1650. This practice was also done by Crompton, Newton & Co. of Derby in 1685. The significant banking event was the establishment of the Bank of England in 1694. From 1720, the emergence of London-based private banks facilitated commerce and trade. In 1777, there was a prohibition of banknote issuance of less than £1.

The Napoleonic Wars affected the economy of the country and there was a temporary allowance of circulating banknotes of £1 or One Guinea. In 1808, a banker's licence was introduced and while this was interpreted as a sound regulatory action, it was a revenue raising measure.

In 1825, denominated banknotes were allowed with a legal tender from £5. However, this year was marked by a series of tight fiscal policies by the banks due to the bad speculation in booming industries coinciding with an agricultural slump and a collapse of a few banks. To prevent a banking panic, methods were employed to convince the customers that their banks were sound by simulating large volumes of customer traffic and presentations of scrap metal bags topped-off with gold coins.

In 1826, the establishment of Joint Stock Banks (with more than 6 partners) was flourished and by adding branches, these competed against the private banks but the banking scene was stabilised.

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

Nevertheless, the Joint Stock Banks were operationally restricted within 65 miles of London.

In 1833, the Charter of the Bank of England was renewed. Eleven years later, the Bank Charter Act was legislated. Finally, in 1921, the last private banknote was issued by Fox, Fowler and Co. of Somerset.

Darren continued his presentation by focusing towards the banking system in Bridgnorth. The population in 1801 was 4,485, declining to 4,179 in 1811 and 4,096 in 1831. Flourishing industries concentrated in river trade, iron foundry and carpet manufacture. The decline in population corresponded with that in the iron trade. From 1783 until 1889, we observe the emergence of four banks: a) Bridgnorth Old Bank [1783-1816], b) Bridgnorth Bank [1790-1815], c) Bridgnorth and Broseley Bank [1799-1888], and d) Bridgnorth Bank [1817-1889].

Bridgnorth Old Bank - Boulton & Bates were the first partners since 1783, changed to Boulton & Co in 1802, followed by Ann Boulton & Wm Bates in 1803, and by Wm Bates and Wm Jones in 1804. The bank failed in 1816. Notes issued were the £5 and 5 Guineas under the first partnership. Under the last one, the £1 and £5 were issued.

Bridgnorth Bank – Wm MacMichael was the only partner from 1790, joined by Thomas Gitton (& Co) in 1810. The bank failed in 1815. Under the last partnership, the £1, £2, £5 and £10 notes were issued.

It is interesting to note that on a receipt for £12 (d.20-4-1811), it was signed by John Dyer, one of the two bailiffs of Bridgnorth. On the bank's £5 banknote printed before July 1812, its engraver – Harry Ashby – was involved with engraving the Bank of Australasia's £1 note circa 1838. Ashby & Co was the leading banknote printer of the time (see 'The Bank of England Note: A History of Its Printing' by A D Mackenzie)

Bridgnorth and Broseley Bank – Vickers, Son & Pritchard were the first partners of the bank in 1799. The partnership changed to Pritchards, Boycott & Co (1851), Pritchards, Boycott & Nicholas (1857), G Pritchard, J Pritchard & W Nicholas (1860), Pritchard, Nicholas, Potts & Gordon (1863), J Pritchard, W Nicholas, G Potts, Wm O Gordon & R H Boycott (1868), and finally, J Pritchard, Wm Nicholas, Wm P Gordon, E R Potts & E Shorting (1875). In August 1888, the bank was taken over by Lloyds, Barnetts & Bosenquets Bank. Under the first partnership, the £5 note was issued, as with the last partnership. Under the 4th, 5th and 6th, proof notes exist. Printers of notes c.1860 were Perkins and Heath, printers of the first postage stamp, the famous Penny Black.

Darren continued with a brief overview of some significant partners of the abovementioned banks and details of the banks' bankruptcies as seen on public notices and written notes on reverse of some issued banknotes. In addition, his

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST NEWSLETTER

extensive numismatic research provided a wealth of banknote images sourced mainly from Spink Auctions and the British Museum, with data from Mackenzie's book. Darren was particularly excited in showing to the members a few examples of scarce banknotes from the Bridgnorth banks which he recently acquired, ensuring that they accompany his coin collection from that region.

The Vote of Thanks was given by member Ken Marshall who praised Darren for this amazing presentation into the history of English banknote system and specifically into the detailed and extensive history of the Bridgnorth banks so well-presented. Ken invited members in congratulating Darren for such quality presentation in the customary manner.

### **Closing of the Meeting**

The President thanked all members and declared the Meeting closed at 9:50pm, followed by the Tender Sales, conducted by Pat Shields and assisted by David Likar and Frank Robinson. Light refreshments were kindly arranged by the Celtic Club management.

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## **The Inaugural ANDA International Coin & Banknote Fair**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October saw the opening of ANDA's first International Coin and Banknote Fair held at Etihad Stadium in Melbourne. Collectors poured through the doors to get their hands on the show specials issued by the Royal Australian Mint and Australia Post. The Royal Australian Mint also took the opportunity to announce the launch of their 2014 releases with the help of speed artist Brad Blaze.

The Numismatic Association of Victoria and the Melbourne Numismatic Society put on displays of numismatic items for the public and also assisted in manning the ANDA stand distributing information to attendees. The efforts of these volunteers is, as always, most appreciated.

Numbers over the weekend were a little disappointing, which was probably due to a number of factors, notwithstanding that it was the first sunny weekend in Melbourne for some considerable time! The event concluded with an International Auction Galleries sale that included some key Australian rarities.

- Darren Burgess

## Morwell Christmas Meeting



**ANDA International Coin & Banknote Fair**

