



News

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March 2016

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Vale

Max Stern 1920 - 2016

In this edition....

- **VICPEX 2016 - it's not too late to get your entries in!**
- **The VPC Strategy Plan 2016 - 2020: seeking your input**
- **Upcoming special events**
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Victorian Philatelic Council

Office Bearers 2016

President: Charles Bromser

Vice President: Robert Williamson

Secretary/Treasurer: Peter Leitch

Representatives on Victorian Philatelic Council 2015-16

Clubs: Charles Bromser, Alex
Stoneman, Raymond Lancaster,
1 vacancy

R.P.S.V.: Gary Brown, Peter Leitch,
Frank Pauer, John Rennie

A.P.T.A.: Robert Williamson,
3 vacancies

Australia Post: 1 vacancy

Change of Contact/Mailing Address

Please notify the VPC of any change to
Club contacts or mailing addresses.

The VPC meets four or five times a year,
at roughly two monthly intervals. The
next meeting will be in early June 2016.

VPC Award of Merit

This is given to a stamp collector/
philatelist who has made an outstanding
contribution to organised philately beyond
Club level in Victoria. Nominations are
invited and these should be addressed to
Peter Leitch, VPC Secretary. The rules
governing these awards are set out on
Page 6. An outline of the nominee's
contribution must accompany the
nomination. The award is announced and
presented at the annual VICPEX.

VPC News

The Victorian Philatelic Council
publishes **VPC News** quarterly. It is
issued in March, June, September, and
December.

*It is issued only in electronic format
on the APF and the APTA web-sites.*

APF

www.apf.org.au

APTA

www.apta.com.au

Editorial

Like many of you I receive a large
number of philatelic newsletters,
bulletins and journals from all of over
the world, and spend many happy hours
poring over them. But sometimes I find
that particular publications fail to give
me just what I want. So if you would
like to express your opinion on what the
VPC News gives you, now is your
chance: you have a new editor open to
any ideas for the future. We try to
bring news from the philatelic world in
Victoria and from around the country,
details of future exhibitions and other
events, and in particular anything
being organised by one of our numerous
philatelic societies. But perhaps there
are other areas that you would love to
see covered. As is noted below in the
notes on the preparation of the VPC
Strategy Plan, philately has an
uncertain future because many
collectors are now getting on in years
and are not being replaced by younger
members. So here is a ready made
issue that affects us all, and the more
ideas that we can bring to bear on how
to attract new people to our hobby the
better. So please let me have your views
on how the *News* can contribute.

John McKay 0400 377 743

VICPEX 2016

Saturday 23rd April 2016

9.30 to 3.30

Maryborough Town Hall
Clarendon St Maryborough

State philatelic exhibition
Local philatelic exhibition

Stamp dealers
Valuations
Free entry
Light refreshments

Sponsored by
Victorian Philatelic Council
Maryborough Stamp Club

Contacts: Peter Leitch- GPO Box 9800, Melbourne 3001
Alex Stoneman- 54642400 or <alson@iinet.net.au>

Maryborough is about 165 km from the Melbourne GPO. The V-Line train/bus service [via Castlemaine] leaving Melbourne at 8.36 can get you here by about 11am, and the return V-Line bus/ train service will get you back to Southern Cross by about 8.30pm.

There is ample free parking near the venue.

The Council of the VPC is developing a Strategy Plan to advance organised philately and its clubs for the next five years. The seven basic questions are listed below.

Context: The VPC, like many other volunteer organisations, needs to plan and map out its purposes, and its strategies and measures to attain them. Similar organisations such as the Australian Philatelic Federation and the American Philatelic Society have undertaken a process to develop a Strategic Plan. Their circumstances are akin to those facing the VPC. The hobby, in terms of collector numbers, juniors taking up the hobby, the number of stamp clubs, and the number of stamp dealers, are all in decline. The VPC carries out a wide range of activities and its constitution and government regulations set out formal requirements of it. These issues and a number of others can only be addressed by a re-think in the approaches taken by the VPC and other affiliated bodies.

To assist the process the Council is very keen to get advice from clubs or individual collectors. If you would like to contribute your ideas to the discussion please respond.

1. What should be the VISION - where does the VPC want to end up?
2. What should be our MISSION - why does the VPC exist?
3. What GOALS should be set to meet the VPC VISION and MISSION?
4. What specific targets should be set to achieve the agreed GOALS?

PROGRAMS & TASKS

Below is a list of tasks, projects and activities of the VPC:

Administration

- VPC meetings and AGM
- VPC elections
- VPC committees
- meeting minutes
- correspondence
- media releases
- annual returns
- VPC archives

Budgeting

- budget plans & priorities
- fundraising
- banking
- investments
- insurances

Exhibitions

- VICPEX
- regional
- liaison with APF
- VPC frames
- medals, prizes & certificates
- judges' workshops
- exhibitors' workshops

Publications & Communications

- VPC news
- liaison with APF News editor
- brochures
- APF website
- club listings
- exhibition displays for loan

Liaison

- APF - APTA - APO - RPSV

Youth Philately

- Youth Officer - youth initiatives - youth competitions

Further possibilities

- VPC website - liaison with older-age organisations - new fundraising activities

ROLES & ACTION PLANS

As part of this review the roles of the Executive and committee members are being considered so that each VPC member has specific activity areas to look after and report on, and an appropriate budget is allocated for each VPC task. The roles might be:

President: chair meetings, represent the VPC, liaison with the APF, meeting schedule,

Vice-President: exhibitions, exhibition rules, medals, frames, Awards of Merit, VPC judges, exhibition results

Secretary: meeting organisation and minutes, agendas, correspondence, VPC travel, liaison with RPSV, APTA liaison, annual returns, annual reports to AFF, club listings, APO liaison, VPC archives

Treasurer: finances, banking, investments, insurances, annual budget.

Member-Publications: VPC News, Liaison with *APF News* editor.

Member-Youth: Liaison with APF Youth Officer, Youth entry support for exhibitions, Junior competitions on APF website.

Member- Exhibition Support: Liaison with VPC Vice-President, Exhibition Planning Committee, Bin Room support.

Member-Publications Support: assist Publications Officer.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

National and International Exhibitions

APF has responsibility for exhibitions at these levels, but the VPC should contribute to these with financial and personnel support. The level of financial support should be cost neutral as far as possible, but should include some winners' trophies. When these exhibitions are held in Melbourne the VPC should enlist volunteers to assist.

VICPEX: The VPC conducts a state-wide exhibition annually. This includes both single frame and multi-frame entries. The venue will be, as far as possible, at alternate city/country venues.

2016 Maryborough 2017 Melbourne [with Melbourne 2017] 2018 Country venue

2019 Melbourne venue 2020 Country venue

Regional

The VPC will support the organisation of region-based exhibitions, where local clubs are prepared to conduct and organise them. VPC support will include a repayable funding advance, certificates and medals, publicity through the VPC, and assistance with judging and an exhibitor workshop.

AWARD OF MERIT

Awards of Merit may be made by the Victorian Philatelic Council (VPC) at its Annual Congress.

Access is by nomination by the Committee of an affiliated Society of the VPC, or by the VPC Council. An Award is not limited to members of affiliated Societies.

PROCEDURE

Nomination in writing must be forwarded to the Secretary of the VPC under sealed cover, and are to be considered confidential until the award is announced at Congress.

Nominations will be considered by a special Committee before Congress. The Committee shall consist of the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the VPC at the time. If one of these Officers wishes to be disqualified, for personal or discretionary reasons, the vacancy will be filled by a Vice-President.

The decision of the Committee is final.

DUE DATE

Nominations must be forwarded to the Secretary one month before Congress.

GUIDANCE FOR NOMINATIONS

Guide lines indicated below are those which will be observed by the Award of Merit Committee, and are quoted as guidance for those wishing to submit nominations.

It must be emphasised that the guidelines apply particularly to service to the hobby as a whole. Work limited or known only to a single Society should be honoured by that Society itself, rather than by the VPC. Nevertheless, some special circumstance may extend the effort to a wider field, or the effort may be of such outstanding and exceptional value as to merit consideration.

Full supporting details regarding each applicable item below must be quoted.

- Service to the hobby as a whole.
- Research or development of philatelic knowledge.
- Lectures, displays, writing – of general philatelic value and interest.
- Organisation (of a Society, public philatelic occasions).
- Length of service, consistency or outstanding effort for philatelic organisations.
- Encouragement of beginners.

Possession of a remarkable collection or of valuable philatelic material does not qualify for this award.

Remembering a Melbourne Philatelic Icon

The philatelic community of Melbourne is mourning one of its true icons following the death last month of Max Stern. Born in Slovakia, Stern began philately as a student, helping support his family by selling stamps. With Jews in Nazi-occupied Bratislava prohibited from owning businesses, Stern transferred his business to a non-Jew who obtained forged papers for him. But he was sent to a labour camp in Zilina in 1943 and was readied for transport to Auschwitz, yet eluded authorities.

On Yom Kippur 1944, the Nazis rounded up Bratislava's Jews, and Stern's family was later sent to Auschwitz. Stern himself hid with friends, but was captured and taken to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Near the war's end, he was on a death march towards Berlin.

While two sisters survived, his parents, two younger brothers and most of his aunts and uncles perished.

In 1948, Stern married survivor Eva Rosenthal and they immigrated to Australia, where he founded Max Stern & Co in the Port Philip Arcade in Flinders Street, Melbourne. He later wrote an autobiography – *My Stamp On Life*.

In 2010, Max Stern & Co partnered with B'nai B'rith's Raoul Wallenberg Unit to issue stamps honouring the Swedish diplomat who saved tens of thousands of Jews.

The great-grandfather, who was a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), last year told *The Australia Jewish News* that because of his 14 great-grandchildren, "I know I have truly survived."

We all have our favourite stories of Max, and for my part I found him incredibly kind, helpful, and willing to spend time imparting his enormous knowledge to his customers. We will all miss him enormously.

It's not too late!

In our December issue we invited all philatelist to submit their entries for VICPEX 2016 to be held in Maryborough on 23 April. As was noted there, both a state level one frame competition and state level competitive classes will be featured. We also included copies of the rules governing these competitions and an entry form. The good news is that it is still not too late to get your entries in - the closing date is not until Friday 15 April! So why not get busy putting your prized collection into a form that will show it to its best advantage and submit your entry form to the conference organisers? Country exhibitions are always so much fun, and you will get double the enjoyment if you are able to show off your collection. I can attest from my own experience that the philatelic experience is greatly enhanced if you take the time and effort to prepare an exhibition or to write an article for one of the numerous philatelic journal about some aspect of your collection. The first step is to see how more experienced collectors prepare their exhibits so please join us in Maryborough for a great day out and see how the experts do it!

Publicise Your Events

If your Society, Club or organisation wishes to publicise its activities or publications to the broader philately community please send details to the editor by mail or direct by email in Word or PDF format to:

john.mckay@analysisinternational.net.au

The closing date for material for the next issue of *VPC News* is 20 May 2016.

Special Events

<p>Essendon: Strathmore Bowling Club 40 Loeman St., Strathmore</p>	<p>First Sunday monthly 9 am - 2.30 pm</p>	<p>Chris Varvskis 0413 355 716 Mike Lee 9729 5855 Grant Carter 0423 271 001</p>
<p>Nunawading: Jaycees Hall Silver Grove</p>	<p>Last Sunday monthly (Second Sunday in December) 9 am - 3.30 pm</p>	<p>Grant Carter 0423 271 001</p>
<p>Bentleigh: Bentleigh-McKinnon Youth Centre Higgins Road, Bentleigh</p>	<p>Third Sunday monthly (January to December) 9 am - 2.30 pm</p>	<p>John Thomas 0418 322 315</p>
<p>Brighton PS: Bri Phil House, 80 Gardenvale Rd., Gardenvale, Vic. 3185</p>	<p>2nd & 4th Tuesdays (evenings) 3rd Tuesday (daytime) First Saturdays at 10 am (Auctions)</p>	<p>Message Bank (03) 9530 6760</p>



**Ballarat Begonia Festival
Stamps and Coins Fair**

Monday 14th March 2016
9.30am – 3.30pm
Ballarat Specialist School, Gillies Street Ballarat
(next to the YMCA Aquatic Centre)

Features:

- Limited edition special overprinted Australia Post collectors Miniature Sheet & No. 12 of the Ballarat historical envelope series
- Visit www.ballaratstampclub.com.au
- Next event: Ballarat Eureka Stamps & Coins Fair ... Sunday October 9th 2016
- Contact: Peter Morry (03) 5339 1767 or petermorry05@gmail.com

Free Entry

Free Valuations

more than 35 dealers & club tables

Prizes & give-aways

Club displays

Presented by:
Ballarat Stamp Club

Ballarat Philatelic Society Inc.
0881235462

STAMPS, COINS & CARDS FAIR

HOSTED BY

“PENINSULA STAMP CLUB INC.”

Monday 13th June, 2016,
Queens Birthday Public Holiday

9 AM to 3 PM

DROMANA UNITING CHURCH HALL

Corner Point Nepean Road & McCulloch Street,
Dromana,
MELWAY REF 159 G 6

FREE ADMISSION & AMPLE PARKING

Many Dealers in attendance buying and selling.
ITEMS AVAILABLE WILL BE,
Stamps, First Day Covers, Post Office Packs,
Postal History and Post Cards,
Coins, Bank Notes,
Phonocards and Collector Packs,
Albums and Accessories,

Refreshments Available, Children Welcome
For Inquiries contact JOHN THOMAS on 0418 322 315
If you miss this Fair, the next Fair
is at the same location and time on Saturday 21st January, 2017.



THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY
of VICTORIA Inc
Come to the BOURSE

Taking advantage of the facilities now available in “Purves House” 303 High Street, Ashburton Vic 3147, the Royal Philatelic Society will hold its 10th Annual Open Day and Bourse on Saturday 16th April 2016 between 10.00am and 3.00pm. The Bourse is an opportunity for the Society to promote its home and library as well as some of the activities of the Society.

There will be no entry fee and Tea, Coffee, Soft Drinks and Biscuits will be available for a donation of \$1.00.

Several Melbourne based dealers will be in attendance.

There will be an uncatalogued Auction of lots provided by members and the dealers attending at 12:30pm. The minimum value of the lots will be \$5.00. Credit card facilities will be available and there will be cash settlement on the day.

The publications of the Society will be on sale, many at a very generous discount. In addition there will be the opportunity to purchase surplus material from the library at very competitive prices.

This year the Society has produced two souvenirs for the Bourse, there will be available a limited edition of 50 numbered “1966-2016 Decimal Currency Australia” PNC’s overprinted in gold for \$50.00 plus \$6.00 for registered postage and 50 numbered 90th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth Mini Sheets for \$15.00. If you cannot attend the Bourse you can obtain the Souvenir order form from the Society website www.rpsv.org.au or from Frank Pauer on frankpauer2@bigpond.com.

