

# November General Meeting

Following the conclusion of the November AGM and with the new President, Barbara Daniels, in the Chair the November General Meeting was held.

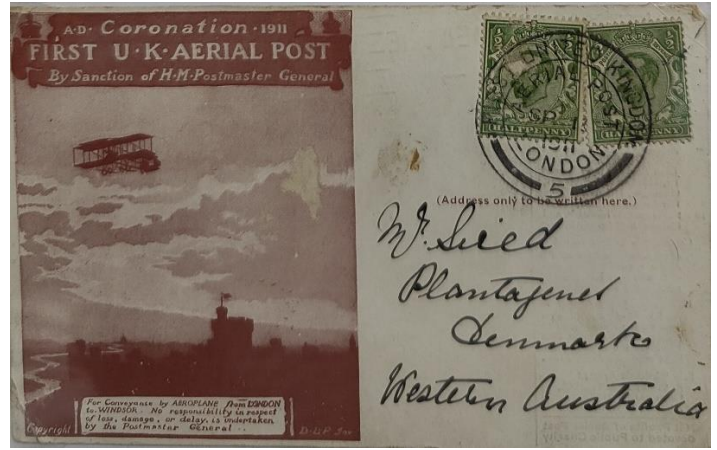
The sale-by-tender included a great deal of material from the eclectic collection of the late Mike Adams, amongst a broad range of other, quality, items. Bidding was spirited, stimulated by the number of members who attended the AGM and the quality of the material.

Top price of \$64 was paid for the 52 page collection of USA National Parks which comprised labels, postcards, and covers relating to most of the iconic National Parks in the USA.



*John McPhee, Mark Leaman and Brian Austin exchange views on the sale-by-tender material available at the November PSWA General Meeting*

There were two collections displayed at the meeting - a two-frame exhibit of World War I material from the late Mike Adams' collection; and an extensive exhibit, in excess of 70 items of crash mail, presented by Dr Bruce Haynes. Of particular interest was a card from the World's first crash mail:

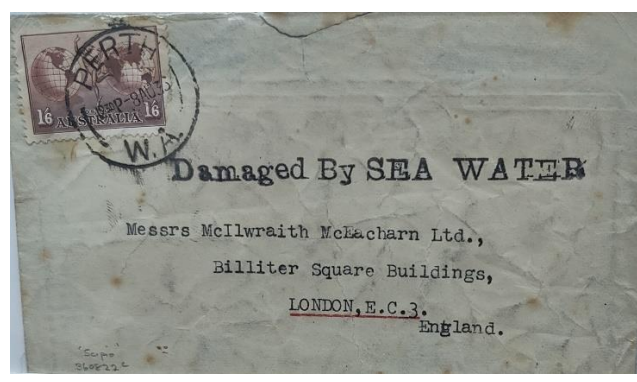


On 11 December 1911 the pilot Charles Hubert flying a Farman biplane, carrying mail from London to Windsor crashed the plane on take-off and broke his legs. Another plane was found to carry the mail retrieved from the crash.

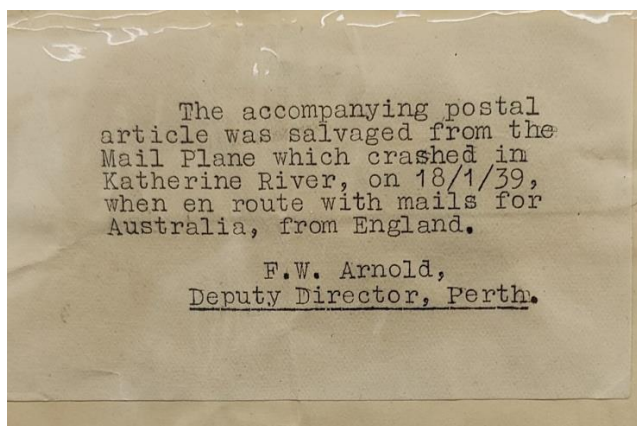
Four items from that first batch of crash mail have been identified as having been addressed to Western Australia and were subsequently carried to Fremantle by *RMS Marmora*.



*Dr Bruce Haynes takes members through his crash mail exhibit at the November meeting*



*The flying boat 'Scipio' crashed on landing at Crete on 22 August 1936, killing two passengers. The 'Damaged by Sea Water' cachet was applied in London on the recovered mail.*



*A variety of crash mail labels explained the damaged mail*

# Checking the Weather

## – to and fro in 1929

- Brian Austin

A recent acquisition shows an interesting example of the post from an earlier time. It is an item of official mail that was sent from the Central Weather Bureau, Melbourne to the Postmaster (“The P.M. – not to be confused with the Prime Minister), The Rock, New South Wales and returned back to the Bureau.



*Official mail from the Central Weather Bureau – as received at The Rock*

It was posted from Melbourne on 17 April 1929 at the one penny printed matter rate using a King George V 1d green, small multi watermark, perf 13.5 x 12.5, perfed OS, to The Rock. This is a small town in NSW on the main railway line just south east of Wagga Wagga.

When I bid on it on eBay, I thought it was a cover but in fact it turned out to be a printed letter sheet for queries on the rainfall report. The sheet is folded in half and then into thirds, i.e. the illustration above represents one sixth of the size of the sheet. On one side is the printed query section (not shown) and on the other was an address panel to send the return and, adjacent to it, a panel for the return to the Bureau.

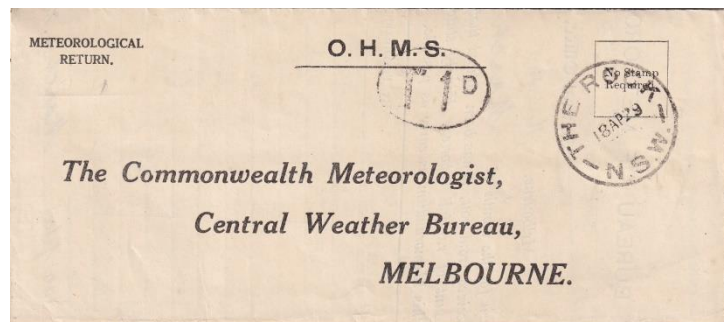


*The Central Weather Bureau's 1929 printed letter sheet - folded out*

The addresses side of the sheet, showing the layout (it is larger than the scanner and part is cut off).

On the printed query side of the sheet the Bureau had written querying a discrepancy between the telegraphed rainfall figure (146 points) and the monthly written report figure (140 points) submitted.

The Postmaster had annotated the correct response which was 140 points and then refolded the sheet and posted it back as per below on the following day.



*Refolded Central Weather Bureau's printed letter sheet*

It is interesting to note the T1d tax marking in spite of the boxed “No stamp required”. While there is no indication that the penny was collected it was probably part of a bulk mail charging service for the Meteorological Bureau. In such as case individual items would not be further marked but a periodic bill for all such returned mail would be provided, as in the case of Reply-Paid mail arrangements.

**...to have the to and fro on the one piece of mail is uncommon...**

Reply mail is sometimes seen in the form of reply postcards and mail that is responding to an official request is not unusual, but to have the to and fro on the one piece of mail is uncommon.

What is even more of interest is that the mail went from Melbourne and arrived at The Rock the next day where it was able to posted back.

In those days of steam trains running between Melbourne and Sydney, it would have been taken by train as The Rock is on the main line between the two capitals.

It is nice to think that at one time the Australian Post Office was able to deliver mail to small country town the following day as opposed to the current service which can take a fortnight to go from suburb to the next.



# Perfin Devices Donated to PSWA



*The VCo perfin on a 6d Kookaburra. This perfin, while the same as that which comes from the device gifted to PSWA, is from another device. Image supplied by David Coath, President of the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia (PCNZA)*

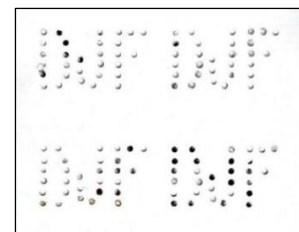
## D and J Fowler Perfin and Device

<https://www.perfins.com.au/OZ-Revenue-Perfins/WA-Revenue-D-Perfins.html>

D and J Fowler was a South Australian company established initially in 1854. By the 1880s the company had grown to be one of the major commercial operations in the Southern Hemisphere with its head office in Adelaide, branches in London and Fremantle and agencies in the Northern Territory and on the River Murray. Amongst other businesses it owned jam, condiments, confectionery and preserved fruit factories. It ran a large shipping agency, importing foodstuffs and exporting wool, wheat, flour, meat, butter, copper and tanning bark. By 1896 the firm had spread to Broken Hill and Kalgoorlie.

Approval to use this perfin was sought and gained in June 1910. The earliest usage dates from June 1910. It replaced the D&J/F device at the Fremantle warehouse.

The DJF device had a long life and was used on the postage stamps of Western Australia and later Australia from 1910 until the early 1960s. Its usage on postage stamps is common. However, use on revenue stamps is rare. Multiples showing the 4 dies together are also rare.



*DJF perfin ex Derek Pocock's perfin device*

For *The History of Perfins* see – David Coath:

<https://www.perfins.com.au/articles/his1z.pdf>

The PSWA has recently been gifted two perfin devices ex the late Derek Pocock. One device is a single headed, single die, VCo (Vacuum Oil Company) perfin device; the other, a single headed, 4-die in a 2 x 2 format, DJF (D and J Fowler) perfin device.

There was a time when Australian postage stamps could be redeemed for cash at any post office for an amount equivalent to the face value of the stamps. To obviate the temptation presented to employees of businesses that used a large number of stamps on postage (mail order firms that mailed out catalogues for example) governments agreed to companies perfinning their stamps so that post office officials would be aware that perfinned stamps submitted for redemption had been illegally acquired.

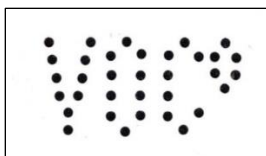
<https://www.perfins.com.au/articles/wa/wa.html>

## Vacuum Oil Company Perfin and Device

<https://www.perfins.com.au/OZ-Revenue-Perfins/WA-Revenue-V-Perfins.html>

Vacuum Oil was incorporated in Melbourne 1904. In 1908 it merged with the Colonial Oil Company and progressively expanded throughout Australia with offices, processing and distribution facilities in Sydney, Townsville, Perth, Fremantle, Port Adelaide, Newcastle, Hobart and other locations.

In 1930 the US parent company merged with Standard Oil to become Socony Vacuum and later Socony Mobil. The Australian operation remained Vacuum Oil until it changed its name to Mobil Oil Australia in 1963.



*VCo perfin ex Derek Pocock's perfin device*

The VCo device is special and has been catalogued as VCO.6. The pattern known as VCO.6 was actually created by a similar device in Melbourne and there were other similar devices in Hobart and Brisbane and in another office in Queensland.

The PSWA's VCo device was located at Fremantle and strikes from it are rare.

# PSWA Christmas Meeting

The PSWA's Christmas meeting was held at Philatelic House on 17 December. In line with tradition, the PSWA's Trophies for 2024 were announced by the President Mrs Barbara Daniels.

The trophy winners were:

**Les King Trophy:** Ms Jeannine Millstead

**Frank Hedges Perpetual Trophy:** Mr Nigel Rainford

**Ross Wood Memorial Trophy:** Mr Mel Peachey

**Ted Barnes Research Cup:** Mr Ross Edwards

**Hooker Shield:** Dr Bruce Haynes



*Barbara Daniels, President of PSWA, presents the Hooker Shield to Dr Bruce Haynes at the 2024 Christmas meeting.*



*Nigel Rainford receives the Frank Hedges Perpetual Trophy from PSWA President, Barbara Daniels.*

## Vale Garry Thomas McBride

1929 - 2024



Garry McBride was born in New South Wales and arrived in Perth in his teenage years. He was educated at Perth Modern School.

Garry was a boilermaker by trade. He ran his own business during the 70s. On giving that away, Gary taught boiler-making at TAFE, travelling around Western Australia in that role. This provided him with a great number of opportunities to further his postmark collection and write up the histories related to them.

Garry was a long-serving and well-regarded member of PSWA.

## Major Philatelic Events 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2025 (as known at time of publication)

### PNS Coin, Banknote and Stamp Fair

Saturday 8 February 2025

9.00 am to 1.00 pm

South Perth Community Centre, South Terrace  
South Perth

### PSWA Stamp It

Sunday 16 February 2025

Dealer tables and auction. Doors open 10:00 am.

South Perth Community Centre, South Terrace  
South Perth

### Perth Stamp & Coin Show 2025

**Day 1:** Friday 7 March 2025, 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm

**Day 2:** Saturday 8 March 2025, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

**Day 3:** Sunday 9 March, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

South Perth Community Centre, South Terrace  
South Perth

<https://perthstampandcoinshow.com.au/pscs/index.htm>