



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 106 – September 2013.

Society meetings are held on the **3rd Thursday** of the month, in the Royal Society Room behind the State Library off Kintore Avenue, Adelaide from 7.45 pm. Supper afterwards, visitors welcome. **Postal address** P.O. Box 2183, Kent Town S.A. 5071. Secretary; Barrie Newman, phone (08) 8362 1167 or email adelaidemint@bigpond.com

Newsletter compiled by Mick Vort-Ronald, primarily from minutes of Society meetings recorded by the Secretary. Contact details for Mick are; phone (08) 8522 4490, P.O. Box 653 Willaston S.A. 5118, email vortronald@yp-connect.net Mobile as below.

For daytime **information** phone or see Grant Morton at I.S. Wright coin shop, Shop 23 Adelaide Arcade (between Rundle Mall – Grenfell St.) Adelaide, Phone (08) 8223 7603. **After hours** enquiries, Mick Vort-Ronald, (as above) or on mobile at **0417 212906** on meeting nights for messages etc. Please do not send text, SMS or leave messages on the phones.

Annual membership **subscriptions** are \$20 in Australia and \$30 overseas. They can now also be paid by **EFT** to 015 590 4981 20308 (ANZ) stating surname and/or postcode.

Members attending meetings **speaking** on various topics are encouraged to provide the secretary with brief **details** of the subjects and examples produced in **writing** on the night or sent by email to the secretary to allow accurate recording in the Society minutes. This will make his task much easier and ensure that correct information is later used in this newsletter for the information of other members and clubs.

Newsletters are now being sent via **email** to those who have the capacity to receive them. In this way you can get your newsletter quicker and better than the printed version, **AND IN COLOUR**. Please advise Barrie of your email address for future issues. This is more efficient and saves the society money. For those who do not have access to the Internet, or still want **hard copy** in black and white, some copies will still be produced and posted if requested. As a result of sending our emailed newsletters to other clubs in Australia and New Zealand, we are now receiving their emailed newsletters and these are also being forwarded on to our financial members.

Remaining meetings for 2013 at Royal Society Room behind State Library off Kintore Ave, Adelaide. Thursdays, 7.45 pm., **21 November** and **19 December**. Visitors welcome.

N.S.S.A. meeting No. 885, Royal Society Room, Adelaide 18 July 2013

Peter L. advised he would be joining the archaeology expedition to the site of the Kilwa coin find in the **Wessels Group** of Islands off the coast of **Arnhem Land**.

Mick advised that the **Rare Coin Co.** in Albany WA had gone into liquidation. He showed a) 29 contemporary **forgeries** – 18 florins, 10 x shillings and 1 sixpence that he had acquired over many years, and various world medallions in souvenir packs.

Mark showed a) 1964 **Canadian** Mint set in plastic holder 1c, 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c, 1 dollar, b) 1966 Canadian Mint unc set of 6 currency coins.



Richard showed a) C1800 gold **Johanna** 35mm wt 28gms circulating value 4 guineas featuring obv. 1732 portrait of IONNES, rev. Portugese Shield, b) C340BC-328BC gold **stater** 8.53gms, Pella Mint - Kings of Macedon, featuring obv. Phillip II 359-336BC, rev. chariot drawn by 2 horses, c) Lapel Badge 7th Australian Division Association AIF – engraved “Life Member – B Ruxton” (**Bruce Ruxton** was a long time National President of the R.S.L.)



Paul J. showed a) **Alexander III** ‘the Great’. 336-323 BC. AR Tetradrachm, (25mm, 17.26 g, 12h). Amphipolis mint. Struck under Kassander, Philip IV, or Alexander (son of Kassander), circa 310-294 BC. Head of Herakles right, wearing lion skin / Zeus Aëtophoros seated left; in left field, Λ above torch; monogram below throne, b) 1866 gold **sovereign** Sydney Mint, c) 1901 gold sovereign.

Ray showed a) US Mint 1976 **Kennedy** half dollar, b) US Mint 1971 Eisenhower \$1.



Neil showed 2013 Royal Australian Mint unc issues a) coloured printed set of 6 x \$1-coins of **Polar Animals** (Walrus, Rockhopper Penguin, Polar Bear, Humpback Whale, Weddell Seal, Atlantic Puffin) on individual cards, b) \$1- coin on card – 60th

Anniversary of the **Korean War** (Armistice), c) \$1- coin on card “**Slim Dusty**” (6th in yearly series paying tribute to Inspirational Australians – previous were Mary MacKillop 2008, Steve Irwin 2009, Fred Hollows 2010, Dame Joan Sutherland 2011, Sir Douglas Mawson 2012), d) 50cents coin on card – **60th** Anniversary of Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Frank showed an old badly worn copper coin featuring a standing figure of a man – possibly 12/13th Century **Byzantine**.



Paul S. showed a) 1838 white metal **City of London** medallion “Victoria – Crowned June 28, 1838”, b) 1863 medallion – Marriage HRH Prince of Wales (Edward VII) to Princess of Denmark (Queen Alexandra) Mar 10, **1863**.

Ray C showed an attractively framed display of **Boer War** memorabilia prepared by him and sent via Mick.

Barrie showed two cloth shoulder flashes featuring silver thread Pegasus on a purple background from uniform of UK **Parachutist** WWII. Picture below.



Peter F. showed a silver UK National Rifle Association award medal in presentation case – 1910 Raymond W **Ffennell** Imperial Challenge Shield Competition (Junior), 47mm (by Elkington & Co Ltd, London) obv. a shield with “1910 Presented By R.W. FFENNELL”, rev. features an archer “1300-1500” and a rifleman “1860”, in exergue “SIT PERPETUUM”, edge engraved “K. HEARD 99”.

N.S.S.A Meeting No. 886, Royal Society Room, Adelaide 15 August 2013.

Visitors: Les, Gerry, Andrew, Russell and S.A.

Peter H. showed a set of pre 1788 coins – 7 x Spanish reals and 5 Dutch guilders.

Barrie brought in some early aboriginal artifacts (nulla nulla, spear, 2 hunting boomerangs and a yam dish made from bark) collected by his father in the Kimberley region of Western Australia in the 1950s, to support P Lane’s presentation on the Kilwa coin finds and his involvement in the latest expedition to Arnhem Land.



Peter giving his presentation, and examining finds.

Peter L. brought in items that he had found using a metal detector during a training session at Rapid Creek, Darwin, prior to embarking on the Kilwa coin expedition to Arnhem Land on 14 July 2013.

The items were 5 shell casings (9mm, 10mm, 11mm and 2 x 14mm), 1 fired bullet 11.4mm – 45 calibre (showing rifling effect), 1963 sixpence (heavily corroded), 2 cent piece (heavily corroded), 3 lead fishing sinkers.

He also showed a beer bottle (stamped on bottom “1943”) collected from the nearby Darwin Military Dump. His power-point presentation gave a full and graphic account of this first ever expedition to Marchinbar Island off the N-E tip of Arnhem Land to look for further evidence relating to the Kilwa coin finds of 1944. Highlights of the presentation were:

In search of coins that could rewrite Australia’s history.

Sponsors of the Marchinbar Archeological Expedition July 2013.

Background to the finding, and subsequent donation to the Powerhouse Museum of 9 coins in the sand, Marchinbar Island, by Morrie Isenberg of 312 Radar Unit, RAAF in 1944 – 5 from Kilwa (East Africa) and 4 from the Netherlands.

Geographical information on Marchinbar Island and its location off the NE tip of Arnhem Land and its relation to Indonesia.

Photos of the 5 **Kilwa** coins circa 1150 to 1375.

Photos of the 4 **Netherlands** coins – dated 1690, 1724, 1745, 1784.

Photo of **Macassan** prau bark painting, indicating links between the Macassans from the Celebes (now known as Sulawesi, Indonesia) with Arnhem Land.

Photos of preliminary meetings and activities of members of the **Expedition** in Darwin, Nhulunbuy and Gove Peninsula, including meeting with Terry Yumulul, the spiritual custodian of Marchinbar Island and photo of 1988 Australian **\$10-** note (No AA 00 000 000 Specimen No 0097) given to Terry **Yumulul** and featuring Terry Yumulul’s feathered morning star sacred pole.

Photo of stones laid by the **Yolngu** in the late 1800s at Wurrwurrwu, Macassan Beach, **Gove Peninsula**, depicting a Macassan prau and its rudder, recording the important history between the Yolngu and the Macassans and the trading of trepang from the 1700s until the Australian Government clamped down on this trade in 1907 as part of its “White Australia Policy”.

Photo of the expedition’s vessel “**Hama Pearl II**”.

Photos taken from landing craft of coin find site and stepping ashore for first time on **Marchinbar** Island and views of the **coin find site**.

Metal detecting activities at coin find site, with operator dragging a chain (tied to his waist) behind him to indicate in the sand, the area scanned.

Photo of one of finds – a modified 19th century brass screw found 30cm below the ground in the vicinity of the 1944 coin find Photos of rocky terrain, inland view of island, thick scrub and beach at low and high tide.

Photo of fresh **crocodile** tracks leading to a small lagoon.

Photos of other finds including an iron bolt, an iron chisel, and an old weathered piece of timber with 2 iron bolts (probably a support for a ship’s deck).

Photo of a **rock painting** featuring a ship (could it be a Macassan prau?) .

Examining and documenting the finds. Tests on the finds are currently being conducted by the West Australian Maritime Museum.

The **Future** – A second expedition to Marchinbar Island is contemplated in the near future and will include divers to search for a wreck or wrecks. A find may help yield answers to the mystery surrounding the **Isenberg** coin find.

The President, on behalf of the Society, congratulated Peter on the quality and scope of the Presentation, which was warmly acknowledged by the members and visitors, with acclamation. The President thanked Mark for assisting with the powerpoint display and video presentation and Denis and Barrie for supplying the special supper after the meeting.

N.S.S.A. meeting No. 887, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 19 September 2013.

Visitor, John from W.A.

NAA Report: Arrangements for **NAAC13** in Brisbane 9-10 November were well in hand with two members, Peter L. and Barrie, attending from NSSA. Articles for the NAA Journal 2013 were currently being finalized and the **journal** would be printed towards the end of the year. Peter L. advised that the current Secretary and Treasurer of the NAA would not be seeking re-election at the next AGM and that these positions would become vacant. It would be good if a South Australian could nominate for these positions.

Richard showed a) bronze medallion issued by Historic Medal Society of Australia and New Zealand commemorating the sinking of HMAS **Voyager** after colliding with HMAS **Melbourne** on 10 Feb 1964 with the loss of 82 lives; b) 4 x £10 Aust. notes comparing the values at the time of issue 1927 (equiv of 3 weeks **average wage**), 1934 (equiv. 3 weeks pay), 1949 (equiv 1 week's pay) 1954 (equiv less than a week's wage); c) 1933 Aust £5 note; d) 1928 half sovereign (equiv 10/- face value).

Ray T. showed Adelaide **Crows** medal No 3730 issued to commemorate **Tyson Edwards** 300 games – obv. effigy of Edwards in centre with yellow, red and blue rings with words “Commemorating Tyson Edwards 300 AFL Games” on surround, rev. Logo “Adelaide Crows No 9”.

Paul J. showed a) **Parthian** Gotzares II silver Tetradrachm, 40-51 AD, VF. The Tetradrachm was an Ancient Greek silver coin equivalent to four drachmae; b) Emperor Caracalla 1 Denarius, and mentioned the clash of empires between the Romans and Parthians over the centuries – there were 43 dynasties in this region which now forms Iran.



Parthian coins. Emperor Caracalla 1 Denarius, VF.

Parthian Gotzares II silver Tetradrachm, 40-51 AD, VF. The Tetradrachm was a Greek silver coin equivalent to four drachmae.

There have been 43 Empires, Dynasties and Countries in this area. Crassus (the seventh wealthiest man in history) defeat at Carrhae was one of the worst military defeats of Roman history. What followed was a dragged out off again and on again confrontation between the two powers.

Parthian authorities convinced the Chinese Ambassador that an arduous sea voyage around the Arabian Peninsula was the only means to reach Rome. Discouraged by this, the Ambassador returned to the Han court and provided Emperor He of Han (r. 88-105AD) with a detailed report on the Roman Empire based on oral accounts of his Parthian hosts.

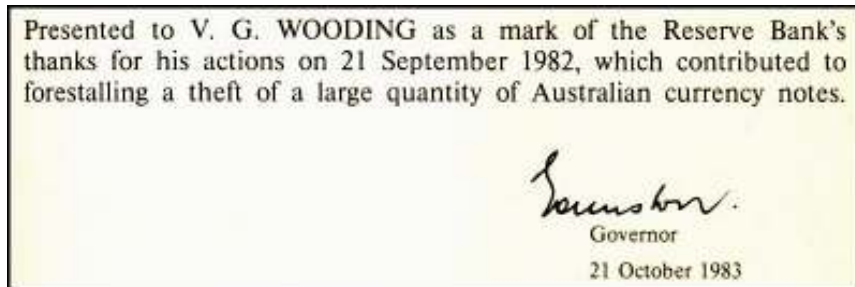
According to the historian Herodian, in 216, Caracalla tricked the Parthians into believing that he was sincere in his marriage to a royal princess and forwarded a peace proposal, but then had the bride and guests massacred after celebrations.

Frank showed a) 1956 five shillings **Jamaica** - British Empire Games, Kingston; b) 1966 one crown Malawi – Commonwealth Games, both coins unc, cu-ni.

M. B. showed a **mis-struck** 2000 US one cent copper coin.

Paul S. showed a **Queen Victoria** medallion “Commemorating Her Majesty’s visit to the City of London Nov 9th 1837”.

Neil showed the latest issues from the Royal Australian Mint – carded \$1 & \$2- unc.



Mick discussed the “Great Plane Robbery” where in 1982 four TAA planes carrying \$800,000 in Australian currency notes were targeted by robbers, who planned to replace the notes with telephone books while the planes were in mid-air, but were foiled.

The Reserve Bank presented a special book containing a specimen banknote of each denomination from \$1 to \$50 to ten T.A.A. staff who had a part in detection and apprehension of the offenders.

All of the notes in the book had Johnston – Stone signatures and OCR-B serial numbering.

Of particular interest were the \$1 and \$50 notes. No other \$1 notes had OCR-B serial numbering and circulating \$50 notes still had the “Gothic” style numbering.



\$1 and \$50 Johnston-Stone notes with OCR-B serial numbering, images courtesy International Auction Galleries.

Because of this, the \$1 and \$50 notes are often auctioned or sold separately making full sets of these presentation specimen notes scarcer, with some sets estimated to currently be worth around \$100,000.

John W. talked about his interest in Australian notes, which he had sold to the Rare Coin Company in Albany. He also commented that he was writing a book on **The Bank of Adelaide** in Western Australia and gave Mick photocopies of the Bank's Perth Office (before and after the earthquake of the 1960s) and Fremantle Office.

Peter L. showed 2 copper **Kilwa** coins found in the 1980s from the hoard on Kilwa Is, a Sultanate of East Africa located approx 100 kms South of Zanzibar.

Barrie showed a bag of 87 **English** threepences ranging in dates from 1855 to 1937 handed to him by a 94 years old English woman for assessment, and passed around the 1855 and 1937 coins and a "Christmas Pudding" silver coin marked "MCMXCI Merry Christmas", a candle on obv. and the word "Wealth" and a money bag on rev.

Peter F. showed a) a gold **Birdwood** School tie-pin badge with blue vitreous enamelling (Schlank & Co Ltd, Adelaide); b) cardboard box marked "AK Badge Box" for Grand United Order of **Arkubs** (Miller, Birmingham); c) small metal Teddy Bear with black and yellow vitreous enamelling.

Canada Opts for Polymer Notes, by Don Allen.

Canada, as the world has come to recognize, is joining the band of nations committed to polymer money, not paper money, and the change-over to the new material rapidly nears completion.

Five Bank of Canada polymer denominations, notes fashioned in the Australian material, have reached circulation. The \$100, first released, and \$50, featured prime ministers, the \$20 Elizabeth II (as Queen of Canada). Two remaining values, the \$10 and \$5, also recognize political leaders, and should be in public hands by the end of 2013, recent Bank of Canada announcements confirm.

The long-awaited \$10 denomination will feature railroading, the outstanding bands of steel that, against all odds, serve to link east and west. Many nations depict rolling stock on national notes, some have for decades, and Canada's new polymer issues are awaited with anticipation.

Canada's proposed \$5 is to have a particularly interesting "space station" theme. Our correspondent writes from Canada that Canadian polymer notes were launched in November, 2011, with the \$100 Sir Robert Borden note which highlighted medical innovations. Canadian collectors have donated a dual set of the polymer denominations to a centrally located museum in Sydney, Australia.

One unusual switch in the polymer series, so far not commented upon in print (we believe), is the complete elimination of the Canadian heraldic arms, a traditional feature.