



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 115 – December 2015.

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. **Web page** sanumismatics.org.au
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 212 906** on meeting nights for messages etc. Please do not send text, SMS or leave messages on Mick's phones.

Annual membership **subscriptions** are now \$30 for members in Australia and overseas. They can also be paid by **EFT** to 015 590 4981 20308 (ANZ) stating surname and/or postcode. If paying by EFT please advise Mick when doing so. See NSSA website.

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 members who have the capacity to receive them. In this way you 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.

FORWARD DIARY

Meeting dates, third Thursday of the month, 7.30 pm.

21 January, 18 February, 17 March, 21 April, 19 May, 16 June, 21 July, 18 August, 15 September, 21 October, 17 November, 15 December. Please mark the dates down in your diary NOW.

Meeting No. 912, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 15 October 2015

Present: 15 members, 5 apologies.

NAA Conference Adelaide 23-25 October 2015: 8 NSSA Members presenting papers; 16 tables reserved for Boarse on Friday afternoon 23 Oct. *Field Visit to the Army Museum, Keswick Wed 21 Oct:* 6 NSSA members attending.

NSSA website: Follow-up Report. The Secretary to advise Mark the email addresses of NSSA members so that he can arrange passwords for each.

SA Philatelic Council Stamp & Coin Show held at Torrens Parade Ground Drill Hall on 10-11 Oct 2015. 4 NSSA members manned table and handed out brochures and newsletters. The President thanked those who attended and commented that the Show seemed quite successful.



Letter from Don Allen, Canada enclosing new **Canadian \$20 note** to be passed on to Powerhouse Museum to join others that he has donated. Holograms part illustrated above.

NAA Report: approx 55 persons had so far registered for NAA Conference & Dinner.



Paul J. showed a commemorative **Gallipoli medallion** issued in 1967 of "Simpson and his donkey" to next of kin of those who served and fought at Gallipoli in 1915, together with presentation box, letter from Defence Dept and colour patches of 10 Battalion and 50 Battalion. The medallion is cast in bronze and is approximately 75mms high and 50mms wide. The obverse of the medallion depicts Simpson and his donkey carrying a wounded soldier to safety. It is bordered on the lower half by a laurel wreath above the word ANZAC.

The reverse shows a map in relief of Australia and New Zealand superimposed by the Southern Cross. The lower half is bordered by New Zealand fern leaves. The name and initials of the recipient is engraved on the reverse. The medallion is issued in a presentation box.

The **50th Battalion** was raised in Egypt on 26 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were veterans from the 10th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. The 10th and the 50th Battalions were predominantly composed of men from South Australia. The 50th Battalion became part of the **13th Brigade** of the 4th Australian Division and was dubbed "Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred", after its first CO, Lieutenant Colonel Frederick **Hurcombe**. After arriving in **France** on 11 June 1916, the 50th fought in its first major

battle at Mouquet Farm between 13 and 15 August and suffered heavily. It took part in another assault launched there on 3 September.

This medal was awarded to the next of kin to E. **Dawes**, Paul's Great Uncle, who went through the Gallipoli campaign with the 10th Battalion and transferred to the 50th Battalion where he fell on the 13th August 1916 at the battle of Mouquet Farm which was part of the wider Battle of Pozieres.

Neil showed a set of 6 x 50cents coins issued by the Royal Australian Mint in 2015 covering Part 2 of its **Australia at War program**. Each coin is presented on a 9.5cm x 6.0cm card and each card is inserted in a folder representing that year of issue. The 3 folders are grouped together in another folder. The coins are cupro-nickel, will not be released into circulation and cover El Alamein, Greece, Crete, Tobruk, Empire Air Training Scheme and War in the Pacific. Each coin costs \$10. The 1st Part of the total issue of 18 x 50 cents coins was issued in 2014 and covered the Boer War and World War 1. There will be a further issue of 6 coins in 2016 to cover post 1945 conflicts.

Peter H. showed a) a **World War 2 US Army walking-out dress uniform** for a Captain in the Army Air Arm featuring his Pilot's Wings and ribbons denoting his Service including 2 years overseas service and Unit Citation for 4th Army Air Service; b) an Australian Army World War 2 Captain's uniform with badges of rank etc – a poor comparison to the US uniform.



D Mc. showed 3 **Japanese** ingot-format coins used for payment to **Samurai** and as circulating coinage – silver 1840s 1 bu, gold 1850s 2 bu, gold 1860s 2 bu.



Kathryn showed a recently purchased **blank planchet** for an Australian 5 cent piece that had some odd markings. Originally it was thought it may have been very weakly struck and part of the echidna was visible. On closer examination that wasn't the case, perhaps it was a New Zealand coin? The detail of the tuatara didn't appear to match either. Obverse markings showed some of the Queen's hair and earring so it was clear the blank was struck and the coin had the Rank-Broadley portrait of Her Majesty. After a little more consideration it appeared it was likely the reverse of the Australian **\$2 coin** with the details matching that of the Aboriginal's beard. She had Mark create an animated image with the 5c morphing into a regular \$2 coin so the coin explained itself. It is clearly a **\$2 coin struck on a 5c planchet**. The smaller diameter and lower weight cupro-nickel planchet of the 5c piece was struck in the \$2 coin press and the resulting coin hasn't much design to show. The resulting mis-strike is what is called an off-metal wrong planchet error. Known errors like these have appeared over the years such as Australian 50c on 20c planchets, 10c on 5c planchets and 5c on 1c planchets but this is the first \$2 on 5c planchet she is aware of.

Peter L. showed a case containing coins retrieved from the **Port Elliott** (South Australia) **World War I Wishing Well** provided to him for classification and sorting. Shortly after World War I the Port Elliott community created a wishing well and when the well was dismantled its coins; Australian and

British pennies and halfpennies, were put aside as they could no longer be banked. This year the committee contacted him to record them for posterity.

This task was completed recently on a spread sheet; recording the country, denomination, mint, year and condition. Many of the British coins have the appearance of being taped, possibly for a museum display.

Mick talked about **Promissory Notes** - Private promissory notes in small denominations had their hey-day in New South Wales from c.1812-1814 and Tasmania from c.1822-1826. There were many different issuers for amounts generally ranging from threepence to one pound.

They are generally referred to as "Promissory notes", but the notes of those times really divide into two general categories. The following definitions are given with the index to notes in the Dixson and Mitchell Library Collections, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney:

"A private bill issued by a person or a firm (not a bank), payable on demand, not necessarily in specie, and with an explicitly stated (printed or engraved) regular denomination. It is a special type of **Promissory note.**"

"A private bill in some such form as "I promise to pay", not necessarily payable on demand, drawn on the issuer or his agent or bank. Applied here only to those without a definite printed denomination, in which case it is called a **Currency note.**"

Further reading; *Australian Colonial Currency and Promissory Notes* 2nd. ed. 2012 by Michael P. Vort-Ronald, 136 pp. RRP \$36, post \$5.

Other forms of promissory notes were common in the first half of the 1900s, which could also be divided into two categories: a) The **Shinplaster**: A promissory note from an individual or company, promising to pay a stated amount on demand. So-called because they were sometimes printed on very frail paper that could disintegrate with a lot of wear, thus preventing the issuer from honouring it. and b) The **Calabash**: Similar to a Shinplaster, but a promissory note payable on demand through a bank.

Further reading; *Australian Shinplaster and Calabash Notes*, 2nd. ed. 2007 by Michael P. Vort-Ronald, 132pp. RRP \$25 post \$4, and

Australian Miscellaneous and Political Propaganda Notes, 2013, by Michael P. Vort-Ronald, 150pp, RRP \$36, post \$4.

Another later form of promissory note was similar to a post-dated cheque in that it promised to pay a certain sum of money for value received (often for 3 months from the date of issue). It was held until the due date and then presented for payment through the issuer's bank.



A new book published by Vort-Ronald in September 2015 describes this category of promissory note from 1906 to 1974 and the **impressed duty stamps** on them. It is A4 size with 88 pp. titled *South Australian Promissory Notes 1906-1974* with a RRP of \$24 plus \$4 post. A previous book by him on such notes in the 1800s is out of print. Enquiries vortronald@yp-connect.net



Richard showed 4 **sovereigns** 1892 (S), 1896 (M) 1905 (P) 1916 (S) and gave a general talk on sovereigns: The sovereign was unique among coins in that it had no denomination or currency value on the coin. Its value was tied to the pound Sterling, which was tied to the gold standard of 3 pounds 17 shillings and 10 pence for a standard ounce of gold. It contained one pound's worth of gold (twenty shillings) or, 22 carat gold weighing 0.2354 troy ounce, a fraction under ¼ ounce. For this reason it rapidly became an accepted and preferred means of payment by the various merchants around the world, such as the Chinese silk traders, American tobacco sellers and Indian spice merchants.

When the price of gold rose in the 1920s, the gold in sovereigns was worth more than the coin's face value. This value rose to 28 shillings in 1932. In 1931 general production of sovereigns ceased worldwide and 1933 was the first time in more than 100 years that no sovereigns were produced anywhere in the Empire.

Gold coins of Australia (1852 to 1931) were also struck from 22 ct gold. The 1852 **Adelaide Pound**, Australia's first gold coin, has an actual gold weight of 8.68gms (Type 1) or 8.81gms (Type 2). Australian gold sovereigns struck between 1855 and 1870 feature the "Sydney Mint" design. From 1871 through 1931 Imperial sovereigns minted in Australia are identical to those struck elsewhere, except for the distinctive (S) Sydney, (M) Melbourne or (P) Perth mintmarks.

Some Australian sovereigns are the rarest and most sought after sovereigns in the world today, with institutions such as Rothschild's in London taking the time to piece together a complete collection.

Sovereign gold coins are recognised worldwide and have been used as "emergency money" for decades. Allied **World War II pilots** carried British gold sovereigns in their survival kits and even in **Desert Storm**, American pilots and British SAS troops carried these historic gold coins as their emergency money in case they were downed in Iraqi territory.

Genuine sovereign gold coins are private, portable and offer instant liquidity worldwide.

Annual General Meeting and Monthly Meeting No. 913, Royal Society Room, 19 November 2015
Present: 11 members, 9 apologies.

NAA Conference Adelaide 23-25 October 2015: The **Conference**, sponsored by the NSSA and held at the Naval Military & Air Force Club, Adelaide, received many favourable comments and deemed most successful, with 48 attendees to the 2 day conference, 58 to the Dinner on the Sat. evening and a Boarse was held on the Friday afternoon.

President's Award for Best Numismatic Presentation During Year: The President announced that Paul J. was the recipient of the award for his many interesting presentations on British dynasties during the year.



President's Report and Numismatic Address: President Richard gave a short report highlighting the achievements of the Society during the past year, the successful NAA Conference held on 23-25 Oct 2015 in Adelaide, Field Visits to the Freemasons Grand Lodge Museum and Army Museum of SA, the well attended monthly meetings and the enthusiasm of members shown at the meetings, and thanked those who had assisted in the running of the Society over the past year, particularly the Treasurer and the Secretary as well as thanks to Denis and to Peter F. for their support in providing suppers. He then presented his Address on "**British Crowns**", in particular describing the Crowns of Charles II (1676), Edward VII (1902), George V (1935) and George VI (1937).

Election of Officers for ensuing year: The following officers were duly nominated and elected:
President: Richard, Secretary: Barrie, Treasurer: Mick Vort-Ronald

Vice-Presidents: Paul S. and Kathryn.

Councillors: Peter L., Paul S., Paul J., Peter H., Coral, Ray H., Mark, Kathryn, Denis, Peter F. David, Neil. NAA Representative: Peter L. Public Officer: Barrie. Auditor: Paul J.

Editor of Newsletter and Occasional Journal: Mick Vort-Ronald

Determination of Subscriptions for ensuing year: It was moved and carried that subscriptions remain at \$30 for all members. Renewals due from November AGM.

NAA Report: Peter L. reported on the success of the **NAA 2015** Conference and advised that he had 10 of the bronze **Conference medallions** available for purchase @ \$25 each.



Neil showed the latest RAM issues for 2015 – “**Unlikely Heroes**” set of 6 colour print, frosted aluminium/bronze \$1- coins to commemorate the part played by animals in war: a) Murphy the donkey (used by Pvte John Simpson Kirkpatrick WWI to carry wounded to safety), b) the feline mascot of HMAS Encounter (WWI Rabaul), c) Shake the Kangaroo (WWI mascot of Australian troops in Egypt), d) Horrie the dog (Middle-East WW2 mascot of 2/1st Machine Gun Battalion), e) Sandy the war horse (horse of Maj Gen Bridges only horse returned in WWI to lead his funeral procession), f) Blue Chequer Cock the pigeon (WW2 Pacific saved US patrol on Manus Is).



Paul J. showed the white metal medallion commemorating the **Battle of Jutland 1916**, obv. an upright trident crossed by two flag staves (White Ensign and Union Jack), legend: “To the glorious memory of those who fell that day 31 May 1916”, rev. inscription “May 31, 1916 the German Fleet attacked off the coast of Jutland and driven back into port with heavy loss – Admiral John Jellicoe Commander in Chief. Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty Commanding Battle Cruiser fleet”. Issued in gold, silver, bronze and white metal.



David showed a medallion presented to him as a Juror for CAPEX 2015 **Cape Town** National Stamp Exhibition in October 2015.

Paul S. showed a 1761 bronze Queen **Charlotte Coronation** Medallion.

Mick discussed the **forged \$50 notes** described in that day's newspaper: The Advertiser newspaper reported on the arrest of a 30 year old man and his 25 year old girlfriend at their home in Seaview Downs after fake \$50 notes were passed in the Westfield Marion shopping centre the previous Friday. Last financial year the following **totals of forgeries** were detected in Australia according to the RBA 2015 Annual Report released in late October.

\$5 (78), \$10 (66), \$20 (755), \$50 (33,292), \$100 (2,943).

The \$50 note is the most forged because it is the most used denomination and the design in the clear window is rather simplistic in comparison with that of the other denominations.

One of the easiest ways to detect forged notes it to **attempt to tear them** as they are usually printed on paper, which tears easily. Plastic (polymer) notes (unless previously damaged) are nearly impossible to tear.

These particular forgers apparently managed to toughen up their forgeries by laminating them by spraying, thus making them more resembling real notes that were hard to tear. Detectives discovered cutting mats, four printers, a computer with counterfeit money templates and a spray room at the home.



Illustrated are the windows from the present \$50 and \$100 notes. Will the Next Generation notes have a more intricate design in the window of the new \$50, or will holograms be reintroduced as per the designs below from the new Canadian \$20 released last September? Holograms are unlikely.

The Advertiser on 10 November also reported that an 85 year-old grandmother **cut up her \$1 million** savings on her deathbed in a retirement home in Lower **Austria** to prevent her family members from inheriting the cash. Authorities said she was within her rights to destroy the money.

Meeting No. 914, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 17 December 2015

Present: 15 members and one visitor, 4 apologies.



Mick also talked about **CSIRO Test Notes**:

In a Roxbury auction in February this year at Lot 1197 appeared an apparent polymer **trial note** produced by the **CSIRO** (top left). In VF condition with a pre-sale estimate of \$5,000, it failed to sell. Similar notes with high estimates also failed to sell in an Edlins auction.

The note (top right on previous page) was purchased from an overseas auction by an Australian dealer. It is similar to the Roxbury note, but has an additional silver square panel or OVD (Optically Variable Device). Another note seen has a different-shaped OVD.

On the website of Western Australian dealer Sterling & Currency is a story about the origins of these notes described on the CSIRO website.

The CSIRO has spent many years developing polymer notes and is credited with the technology that resulted in the current New Note Series Australian polymer banknotes issued by the Reserve Bank of Australia. A story about these may appear in the March CAB.

The notes illustrated show obvious signs of wear simulating public circulation. Their conditions are believed to have been influenced by a machine developed by the CSIRO called a **Turbula**. Trial notes are placed in this machine and subjected to abrasives, chemicals and even imitation sweat to test their durability.

It is thought that over a **million trial notes** of various denominations and designs have been printed by the CSIRO to test them under commercial production conditions. Only a few have been located outside of that institution, resulting in high asking prices. If such notes were released in large numbers, they would become an affordable welcome addition to the collections of Australian banknote enthusiasts, demonstrating one of the many phases of the evolution of polymer banknote technology.



A World War 2 US Army walking-out dress **uniform** for a Sergeant in the **Airborne Infantry (Glider Forces)** showing service ribbons, parachute and glider badges and with a blue lanyard.



Peter L. showed a **Liverpool Internment Camp** aluminium medallion obv. GCC (German Concentration Camp) Liverpool NSW on surround with a shield supported by a kangaroo (L) and an emu (R) above a sprig of wattle, rev. ZUM ANDENKEN . AN UNSERE KRIEGSGEFANGENSCHAFT (In memory of our war internment) on surround encircling a map of Australia with the dates "1914", "1915", "1916" shown therein. (Amor, Sydney)



Ray showed 3 **sniper's award medallions**, boxed "SSB Mint Limited Edition Collector Coins" gold plated, silver plated and copper, each encapsulated with obv. wording on surround "From a place you will not see comes a sound you will not hear" with images of crossed rifles, telescopic sight and skull, rev. two soldiers with machine gun and the words "You can run but you will only die tired".



Coral showed **2001 United Kingdom Executive Proof Coin Collection** in special deluxe metal case which allows the encased proof coins to pop up to form a clear display, with certificate. The 10 proof coins feature: 5 pounds with bust of Queen Victoria within a "V" and Crystal Palace in background; two x 2 pounds, one showing radio waves commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Marconi's first radio transmission; 1 pound shows a finely crafted Celtic Cross, design based on the Broishter Collar torc, a masterpiece of Celtic craftsmanship found in Ireland; a 50 pence coin, 20 pence coin, 10 pence coin, 5 pence coin, and 2 pence and 1 pence copper coins. A beautifully presented set.



David showed an 1857 South Australian copper token obv. "**CROCKER AND HAMILTON 1857**" surrounding the words "Drapers Silk Mercers and Clothiers", rev. "ADELAIDE . PORT ADELAIDE . AND BURRA BURRA" surrounding a frontshop image of Regent House.



Kathryn showed a 2012 Aust \$1- coin featuring the **AFL Premiers**: “In 2012 there were two 1 dollar coins issued by the Royal Australian mint to commemorate the AFL. Both coins featured the AFL premiership cup trophy and the generic coin read “2012 AFL PREMIERS ONE DOLLAR” on the reverse and the other was issued after the Sydney Swans won the premiership title and read “2012 AFL PREMIERS SYDNEY SWANS”. Images, previous page.

Little known to collectors the first generic coin (shown here) was issued in corporate gift packaging and was given away as a gift at **official AFL functions**. Collectors weren’t really aware of this issue as it was not something that you purchased and it wasn’t given out through collector channels. She thought tonight she would show this coin and its packaging that appears for the first time in the 22nd edition (2015) McDonald’s catalogue.

This is the same coin that appears in the PNC issue so don’t fret if you haven’t heard of it before. It’s just a different type of packaging, what collectors affectionately call **‘packyboxitis’** when you collect a coin merely for the packaging it’s held in.”



Mark showed a bronze medallion that is 38mm diameter and weighs 26.6 grams. The medallion depicts a pair of crows on one side standing on a book, one with coins in its beak. Around the rim is the legend “1966 1976 **ADELAIDE COIN CLUB**”

The initials E.S. and P.F. can be found on the rim at 9 o’clock and the stylized initials ACC can be seen at about 7 o’clock.

The other side of the medallion depicts the Festival Theatre with cloud above and gardens below. Again the initials E.S. and P.F. can be seen, this time at the rim at 6 o’clock.

The medallion is listed in Carlisle as 1976/1 with a mintage of 100 in bronze, 35 in silver, and 1 in gold. It was struck by Allan J. Olson & Assoc. Ltd in Adelaide. The initials on the coin E.S. refer to the engraver Ernest Snook, and those of the designer, P.F. are those of Peter Fleig.



Richard showed 3 **English proof sets** a) 1937 – 15 coins including Maundy penny; b) 1950 – 9 coins (box not well made); c) 1953 – 10 coins Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.