



Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of NSW & ACT Stamp Committee

PO Box A2178, Sydney South, 1235 NSW Email: uniting.stamps@gmail.com

STAMP COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER 2017 **From October 1977 to December 2017 - \$ 759,150** **Sales for 2017 - \$19,518**

A remarkable achievement in forty years. Congratulations and many thanks to the hundreds of volunteers throughout NSW and the ACT who have spent countless hours collecting, trimming and sorting stamps. These funds have been used by congregations and Synod Agencies for Community/Outreach projects.

This year, stamps were received from over 140 congregations in NSW and the ACT plus several in Queensland and Western Australia. The demand for all \$1 stamps far exceeds supply resulting in limited bulk sales to dealers. Australian stamps are still the most popular closely followed by Australian Territories, Great Britain, New Zealand, Pacific Islands, Asia, USA, Canada and Scandinavian countries.

Would you like to enjoy a few hours a week or month on Tuesday or Friday mornings in the Stamp Room, Level 2, 262 Pitt Street, Sydney.? Philatelic knowledge is not essential but we can guarantee great fellowship with other volunteers and you will meet interested collectors who come to purchase "used pieces of paper". It is always a pleasure to meet volunteers who hand deliver stamps on Tuesday or Friday mornings and we are amazed at the time and effort put in by everyone in sourcing stamps and by the interest generated in the local community.

We celebrated the 100th Birthday of long standing volunteer, Nola Harris (Burwood UC) in November. A highly regarded mentor to the Committee, Jeff Newman (Killara UC) has just been awarded the Philatelic Association of NSW Award for meritorious service to Philately in NSW – a rare honour and our congratulations. Sadly, we lost several volunteers this year, especially Joyce Swanson (former sales manager), Joyce Kemp (former Chairman), Ken Nash (Terrigal), Steve Webb (Wollongong) and Cliff Mitchell (Richmond). Together with others who have retired as coordinators in congregations, they have all made a significant contribution to the Stamp Committee for which we are very grateful.

In 2017, \$17,075 was allocated to Frontier Services and congregations in NSW and the ACT for an exciting and diverse range of Community/Outreach projects. Our priorities in allocating funds are as follows - Existing Community/Outreach programs involving volunteers from the congregation then new projects where our enquiries have ascertained that planning is well underway and there is every chance that the project will be successful. Funds are not provided for structural building works, infrastructure projects, day to day operational expenses for staff etc. Detailed information will be on our website in March and the closing date for applications in 2018 will be August 15th. All applications are to be sent by email to uniting.stamps@gmail.com

The following Congregations received funds – Guildford McCredie, Engadine, Cooma, Goulburn, Gungahlin, East Maitland, The Entrance/Long Jetty, Junee, Peel Valley, Mt Colah, Toronto, Armidale, Orange Wesley, Yarralumla, Corrimall Region, Northbridge/Castlecrag, Wahroonga, Terrigal, Turramurra, Eden and Frontier Services.

Community/Outreach projects included – Soccer resources for financially disadvantaged families and newly arrived refugee and Asylum children, reflective garden, healthy breakfasts for school children, resources for community kitchens, Women's Shed initiatives, coffee/community meeting places, English language learners, worship resources used in the community, information brochures for new residents in high rise areas, Eco consumerism and justice awareness, emergency food supplies, Childrens ministry resources, Birthing kits for Kiriwinan community in PNG, city/country church links for young people, 'The Dish' at Hornsby serving meals for disadvantaged people. Food and petrol vouchers for Frontier Services volunteers in outback and remote areas of Australia.

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STAMP ROOM SALES LEVEL 2, 262 PITT STREET (PILGRIM HOUSE), SYDNEY

TUESDAYS: 9.00am to 12 noon

FRIDAYS: 9.00am to 11.30am

STOCK BOOKS : Australia, Great Britain, Australian Territories, New Zealand, Pacific Islands, USA, Canada, Scandinavia, Asia. All stamps for sale are individually priced.

First Day covers, Postcards, mixed packets of Australian and foreign countries.

Donated Collections are usually sold at auction through the Philatelic Association of NSW.

VOLUNTEERS

Enjoy a few hours weekly/monthly in the Stamp room on Tuesdays or Fridays from 9.00am to 11.30am trimming and sorting stamps. Philatelic knowledge is not essential but we can guarantee great fellowship with other volunteers. Level 2, 262 Pitt Street, Sydney (near Park Street).

DELIVERY, TRIMMING AND SORTING OF STAMPS

All stamps may be:

1. Sent to our postal address – PO Box A2178, Sydney South, 1235 NSW OR
2. Hand delivered to Reception, Level 2, 222 Pitt Street (Uniting Church Synod), Sydney – Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 4.00pm OR
3. Hand delivered to the Stamp room on Tuesday or Friday mornings (9.00am to 11.30am) at Pilgrim House, Level 2, 262 Pitt Street, Sydney (near Park Street).

Come in, see what we do and enjoy a cup of tea.

Trimming: Stamps can be supplied on envelopes, cut off envelopes with at least 2cm around the stamp ready for trimming or carefully trimmed with a 3mm paper surround. Some collectors prefer to buy their stamps on paper and soak them off at leisure – especially the \$1 peel and stick stamps issued since June 2017 as Australia Post makes slits in these stamps and they can be difficult to soak them off without damaging the stamp.

Sorting: If you have plenty of stamps you may wish to sort them as follows:

All stamps - on paper/off paper

Australia – Pre-decimal, \$1 and 70cents - but keep the flowers separate from the rest, 60cents – but keep the fish/farming ones separate from the rest, 50 cents, 49 cents 45 cents and

Concessionals. Christmas – please keep the 2018 and 2017 separate to the rest. Any stamps which have not been franked by the Australia Post should be kept separate. Please note that there is no market for decimal stamps with a face value less than 45 cents or the 45 cent animal definitives.

World stamps – Great Britain, New Zealand, Pacific Islands, Australian Territories, USA, Canada , Asia and the rest.

Postcards, First Day covers, Telephone cards

We look forward to your continuing support in 2018 and wish you all God's blessing.

Ruth Mitchell – Business Manager/Secretary. Mobile: 0412109981