



# PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE

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## NEWSLETTER No. 413

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Happy New Year to you all!! Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January at 18h30** in the Activities Hall at Pinelands Library – if there is any loadshedding scheduled for that evening, I will let you know the day before! If there is to be four hour loadshedding that evening, we will probably have to cancel the meeting, but you will be advised beforehand.

As per our usual first meeting of the year, this will be an all members “New Acquisitions and Favourites” evening. Please bring something interesting along to show.

### **NOVEMBER MEETING:**

We started the meeting on a sad note, holding a minute's silence in memory of Peter Derham who had passed away a few weeks earlier. Peter's history with the club was sent out in our previous newsletter. Martin and I attended his funeral at St Paul's in Rondebosch – the church was packed and there were many wonderful tributes paid to Peter by members of Cynthia's large extended family.

For this, the final meeting of the year, we had a very disappointing turn-out – only eight members and two visitors – Andrew Mackenzie's wife and daughter! Andrew had brought along his late father's collection “The Musical Journey of Angus Mackenzie” for us to view. Andrew told us about his Dad's passion for music, having inherited this love of music from his parents. His siblings were also musical. They moved around a bit in those early years – Scotland, USA where he took up the trumpet, back to Scotland, then on to Africa and Rhodesia and finally he settled in South Africa. The exhibit covered about 60 years of his life and reflected the composers who influenced him, both classical and jazz musicians. He also won some philatelic medals while a member of the West Rand Philatelic Society. After Andrew had explained the exhibit to us, we were able to view and enjoy it.

We then moved on to the 49<sup>th</sup> AGM proceedings, the minutes of which were circulated to members after the meeting. Your committee remains as before.

In the absence of John Rycroft, Martin then gave a report back on the recent Cape Town International and International Exhibition and updated members on decisions taken at Congress and you have all been advised of the R125 affiliation fee, which is included in your PSC subs of R175. There is no alternative!! That is, unless you are a home member of another society, in which case you will be required to pay R50. Please contact the treasurer, Alastair Weir at [brendaweir@absamail.co.za](mailto:brendaweir@absamail.co.za) or phone 021 531 5866 to arrange to make your payment. All payments must be paid this month!

We concluded our November end of year meeting with a few snacks.

**COMMITTEE MEETING:** The committee will be meeting this week to discuss the year's programme and the way forward for the club. We will report back to you at the January meeting.

**THE CAPE STAMP FAIR:** We attended the January stamp fair on 14<sup>th</sup> January and had a very successful day. The next fair will be held on Saturday the **4<sup>th</sup> February** at Bellville and we plan to be there.

## **OTHER NEWS:**

**Brian Fenemore:** We were very sad to hear of the death of Brian after a short illness and you would have received an email which I sent just after his death detailing his association with our club. Brian's home society was the Royal and he was also a member of the Fish Hoek Society. He was also the secretary for the Postcard Society, so Brian was well-known to many people in the Cape Town area and beyond. We will miss his always enthusiastic response to being invited to exhibit at our club – he was always willing to bring along something to show.

**PO update:** As mentioned in my last newsletter, I gave Charl, who was manning the SAPO stall at the recent exhibition, an envelope to post to the USA for me. Knowing that it was taking three months for birthday cards to arrive in the USA and getting there after the birthdays, I had given him an envelope to post to one of our granddaughters whose birthday is in February – she got it within three weeks!! Surely a record for these times!

The stamped envelope I gave to Ian Shapiro of Spink to post to our grandsons in Glasgow arrived in their postbox the day after he posted it in London. Meanwhile, the Christmas cards I had posted from here months before, only just made it for Christmas! Cards posted from them on 25<sup>th</sup> October arrived here about a week before Christmas, but the calendar posted at the same time only arrived here the first week of January and we had to pay R34 to the Mowbray PO before they would hand it over!!

We did our three monthly country trip to Paarl in December to buy cheese at Fairview, wine from Simonsvlei and pork products from Joostenberg Meat Market. We decided to come home a different way and came via Philadelphia where we stopped for a walkabout. The old PO there, with the date 1904 on its gable, is now used as a coffee shop and gift shop. I attach a photo below. You can clearly still see the red PO Boxes to the right of the door – one vertical bank of boxes (behind the plant) and a horizontal bank of boxes. Philadelphia is an interesting little village.



And now a bit of trivia. Having done some weeding recently in preparing our vegetable bed for its new lot of seeds, I then came across a little known fact about weeds and philately, so here's a question for you: What are widow weeds? Answer at the end of this newsletter.

## **PERSONAL NEWS:**

Nothing much to report here this time – Christmas is always such a busy time! With half of our children overseas with all of our grandchildren and my sister holidaying in NZ, we had our two local children, one fiancée and my nephew and his wife and two children for Christmas Eve dinner, where two little gas cookers came into their own to do some last minute heating of soup, gravy, veggies and meat because we had loadshedding from 18h00 to 20h00! We waited until after the power came back on before we poured the brandy over the traditional Christmas pudding and lit it! We needed the power to briefly heat up the pudding in the microwave! I must have been very generous with the brandy this year, because the pudding burned for ages with a lovely bright blue flame!!

We have done some cycling but we have to up our game with the CT Cycle Tour coming up on 12<sup>th</sup> March. There are not many more weeks to fit training in and the strong winds we sometimes have don't exactly help us because then we don't go out on the road. Instead we sit on the indoor bike which isn't exactly going to help us to get up all those steep hills!!

Hope to see you at our first meeting of the year on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

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**Widow weeds:** This was the name given to two stamps issued by Canada in 1893. The stamps show Queen Victoria dressed in her mourning clothes. After the death of Albert in December 1861, Victoria went into deep mourning and she wore black for the rest of her life.