

## Mal Nicholson's Response upon Receiving the PDC's Youth Philately Award

I first became involved in Youth Philately in about 1996-97 when the then President of Sutherland Shire Philatelic Society, Peter Hewitt suggested that we run a "Kids Corner" at the Petersham Stamp Shows, held quarterly on the 5th Saturday of a month. This was after noticing quite a few children attending the regular Stamp Fairs held at Sylvania and the annual Children's Club night in January. At this stage I was the Society Publicity Officer. Stamp information meetings were also held within Shire Cub groups (junior Boy Scouts).

At the Petersham Fair, we had a table with activities and stamps for the young ones attending. This occurred for the meetings in 1997, as I remember. It was at one such event in August 1997 that we heard the news of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

After this, in 1998, we established a Kids Corner to occur in conjunction with the regular Stamp Fair then held at Sylvania. Then in 2005 the Fair moved to Caringbah and later, in mid-2009 to Gymea. We did this also at the annual Sutherland Shire Philatelic Society Spring Stamp Fair, ably assisted for many years by Society member Joyce O'Shea and then Flo Panazzolo and Pam Tuckwell.

Also about 1999 I became involved in the PHILAS Sydney Youth Stamp Group led by the late Lewis Hodson and later Cyril McCulloch. I accompanied Lewis to Adelaide on one occasion for an Australia-wide conference on Youth Philately. I also took over the running of the Sydney Group for a year, before Liz Nakala took up that challenge and I have since been involved with SYSG until 2020.

I was honoured in 2007 to be awarded Life Membership of Sutherland Shire Philatelic Society and in 2008 to be awarded the Stan Griffith Award of Merit for services to Club Philately.

Unfortunately in 2016 with dwindling young collector numbers attending Gymea it was reluctantly decided to discontinue this activity, just on the eve of 20 years. Since then, however, members of our Sutherland Society, including me, have been regular volunteers at the Sydney Youth Stamp Group meetings.

Thus it is a great honour to this year receive the NSW Philatelic Development Councils' medal award for services to Youth Philately, for which I tender my sincere thanks.

Malcolm Nicolson