

The NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COIN AND STAMP CLUB INCORPORATED



Our Club's 56th Year

*23 FEBRUARY 2021
ISSUE #225*

THE CLUB MEETS AGAIN ON THIS 23rd FEBRUARY 2021



Howard Lyons chats to a customer at our April 2012 Expo, when it was held in the Kenna Hall

Conditions of Use Statement for the Orange Cultural Centre: -

D20/34948



COVID-19 - ORANGE CITY COUNCIL HIRER CONDITIONS OF USE

The Australian and NSW Governments have provided information regarding the use of community centres and halls to ensure safety for communities and individuals.

The following conditions of use must be adhered to by all hirers and attendees of Orange City Council venues from 22 June 2020 until further notice. Failure to comply with these conditions may result in the cancellation of future bookings.

1. Each room will have a maximum capacity sign located near the entry door and provided to hirers. The maximum capacity must be adhered to. This figure has been developed using the one person per four square metre rule, however all indoor group activities must be limited to a cap of 20 participants.
2. Where the room capacity is over 20 people due to size, the maximum number of 20 participants still applies (plus the facilitator/instructor and any assistants).
3. Advise participants that if they have any cold or flu symptoms they must not attend activities or enter the building.
4. Ensure any spectators comply with the 1.5 metres physical distancing, unless they are people who live in the same household.
5. Reduce crowding and use physical distancing of 1.5 metres when people are queuing.
6. Keep a record of name and mobile phone number or email for all staff, volunteers and attendees by providing a sign in sheet for all activities.
7. Use the provided disinfectant on tables, chairs and kitchen facilities before and after use of the venue, and more often when high-intensity cardio classes are conducted. Wash tableware and cutlery with provided detergent and hot water after use.
8. Use hand sanitiser and correct hand washing practises on a regular basis. Hand hygiene kits will be provided when picking up keys.
9. If serving food buffet style designate a restricted number of people serving and practice correct hand hygiene before and after service.
10. Arrange tables and seating to support 1.5 metres of distance between people. Gloves must be worn when moving furniture, and hands washed with soap and water after afterwards.
11. Ensure activities, including sports and exercise, are non-contact as much as is practical.
12. Persons who do not adhere to these conditions, demonstrate and symptoms of illness in line with COVID-19, or have knowingly been in contact with a person suspected of having COVID-19, will be requested to leave Council premises.
13. It is the responsibility of all members of the community to adhere to COVID safe strategies and social distancing.


Nick Redmond

ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES

We may have to live with COVID-19 for months or even all of 2021. Let's not deny it or panic. Let's not make our lives useless. Let's learn to live with this fact.

OUR NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2021



The Orange Cultural Centre from Sale St

The Club's next monthly meeting is on next Tuesday night, the 23th February 2021 at the Orange Cultural Centre. It's our first monthly meeting for 2021.

The next monthly meeting after that is on Tuesday 30th March 2021

The monthly coin & stamp mini-fair is in the Orange Cultural Centre is on Saturday 6th March 2021 from 9 to 1.

It's in Sale St, Orange. It's the building that used to be a school. It's on the right hand side as you enter the Woolworths Car Park. The building is sort of opposite Harris Farm Market, but entrance is from the mini-park on the Sale St frontage.

OUR 2021 ORANGE COIN & STAMP EXPO IS PLANNED FOR 10th & 11th APRIL 2021

Our 2021 2-day Orange Coin & Stamp Expo is scheduled to take place on the weekend of Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th April 2021.

We still need a final "say-so" from Orange High School, depending on how the Covid-virus develops or if its spread, hopefully, recedes.

Orange Spring Fair 2019
(the last one we able to hold) participating dealers – please continue to support them:-

Wynyard Coin Centre (M.R. Roberts), 3 Barrack St, Sydney, 2000 Ph (02) 9299 2047. Fax (02)9290 3710

www.wynyardcoins.com.au

A. Byrne Coins (Tony Byrne from Canberra) – PO Box 53, MITCHELL, A.C.T. 2911, ph (02) 6255 4044)
Buying and Selling

Orange Stamps & Coins
(Howard Lyons), PO Box 9288, Orange, 2800;

Mobile 0427 107 554

Phone/fax (02) 6362 2368,
E-mail: howard.lyons@bigpond.com
Buying and Selling - Stamps, Coins, Banknotes, Accessories, etc.

Phil & Win Morehouse,
Bankstown. NSW 2200 Ph: (02)9707 4087, Email –
wmorehouse@netspace.net.au.
World-wide stamps bought and sold

AAA Stamps (Steve Burton) of Long Jetty. Phone 0432 540 760.
Email: - aaastamps@yahoo.com.au
Buying & selling World stamps

DATES FOR 2021

Orange Coin & Stamp Club monthly meeting. 7.30pm at the Orange Cultural Centre, Tuesday 23rd February 2021.

Orange Coin & Stamp Club regular monthly fair at the Orange Cultural Centre, Saturday 6th March 2021, 9-1

PHILAS Auction, 13 March 2021 at PHILAS House, Darlinghurst.

**THIS PHILAS AUCTION WILL BE A
"NO BIDDERS IN ROOM" POSTAL**

BIDDING EVENT LIKE THE LAST ONE!

Catalogues are available on-line at the PHILAS web-site. The Club has a single paper copy. Bids will be accepted up to 3pm on 12th March 2021.

Viewing lots can be arranged by making an appointment for 10-4 on 6th & 7th March and 10th, 11th and 12th March (10-3 on 12 March). You will need gloves & a mask.

Orange Coin & Stamp Club monthly meeting. 7.30pm at the Orange Cultural Centre, Tuesday 30th March 2021. Yes, it's Australia day too!

Orange Coin & Stamp Club regular monthly fair at the Orange Cultural Centre, Saturday 3rd April 2021, 9-1

The 2021 Orange Coin & Stamp Expo, Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th April 2021 at the Orange High School Hall (subject to its availability)

Orange Coin & Stamp Club monthly meeting. 7.30pm at the Orange Cultural Centre, Tuesday 27th April 2021

Wagga Stamp & Coin Fair, 15-16 May 2021, Sturt Primary School, White Avenue, Karingal, Wagga (subject to the availability of the hall).

PHILAS Auction, 10 July 2021 at PHILAS House, Darlinghurst.

Toowoomba National One-Frame Stamp Show, 9-10 October 2021

Newcastle Half-National Exhibition

Date changed from 2-4 October 2020 to Friday 21 October to Sunday 23 October 2021 Newcastle Showground Exhibition Centre, Broadmeadow

OUR CLUB CIRCUIT BOOK

Colin Richardson advises that circuit book #91 is complete and #94 has started. Doing its rounds.

The first coin circuit book has also been concluded. Another one is anticipated soon.

Colin can be contacted direct at
Email: ptilinopus1@bigpond.com
Ph: 63690634

ITEMS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER AND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CLUB

Items for this newsletter could be posted to the Secretary at the Club's postal address: - PO Box 324 ORANGE 2800

Better still you could e-mailed to: -

ddolstra@bigpond.net.au

-Or phone 63 614 873

Come along to the Orange Coin & Stamp Club's

Orange Coin & Stamp

Expo 2021

Saturday 10th & Sunday

11th April 2021

9 to 4 Sat and 9 to 3 Sun

Orange High School Hall, Woodward St, Orange

Car park entrance is next to Duntryleague Golf Club. For off street parking turn left opposite United Petrol Station in Woodward St. and just prior to traffic lights

Displays of stamps, coins and banknotes

Sydney & Canberra & local dealers will be in attendance and will offer a range of Australian

& World stamps, covers, coins, banknotes and accessories

Dealers are available to give valuations & appraisals

Admission is \$2; accompanied children free

For further information phone Howard on 0427 107 554

ORANGE STAMPS AND COINS

P.O. Box 9288, Orange. 2800

Email: howard.lyons@bigpond.com

Ebay store: <http://stores.ebay.com.au/orangestampsandcoins>

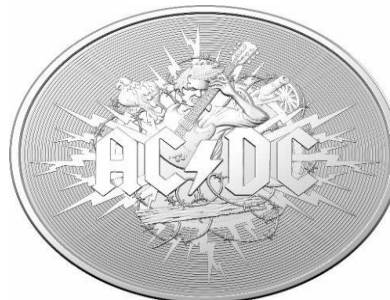


2020 unique Christmas pop-out 50 cent coin decoration featuring golden wattle flower emblem. **RRP \$10-00**

AC/DC - 20cent coin \$15-00 each

- 2020 20c Coloured Uncirculated Coin – 45th Anniversary of the Australian release of (single) High Voltage
- 2020 20c coloured uncirculated coin - 45th Anniversary of the Australian release (album) T.N.T
- 2020 20c coloured uncirculated coin - 45th Anniversary of (album) Back in Black
- 2020 20c coloured uncirculated coin - 35th Anniversary of (album) Ballbreaker
- 2021 20c coloured uncirculated coin - 45th Anniversary of (album) Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap
- 2021 20c coloured uncirculated coin - 45th Anniversary of (album) For Those About to Rock We Salute You

2020/2021 AC/DC - \$1 Silver Frosted Uncirculated Coin - RRP \$90-00



Orange Coins & Stamps advertisement page 2

20021 Heroes of the Sky - Aust Air Force

\$1 set of 4 Privy Mintmark coins

RRP - \$30-00



\$1 Fine silver proof with 'C' mintmark RRP \$60-00



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Orange Coins & Stamps advertisement page 3

2021 Six coin Proof and Uncirculated Year Sets



RRP \$30-00 (features aboriginal flag coloured)\$2



RRP - \$130-00

2021 Tooth Fairy \$2 carded coin - \$19-95



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Orange Coins & Stamps advertisement page 3

2021 Six coin Baby Proof and Baby Uncirculated Year Sets.

(Available for purchase by pre-sale now with delivery not expected until early Dec.)



Baby

Mint set \$45-00



Baby Proof Set \$130-00

The following coins are due to be released on Thursday, Feb 4th.

2021 \$1 Uncirculated Colour coin - Centenary of Rotary RRP \$15.00

2021 \$5 Silver Proof Coin Centenary of Rotary RRP \$105.00

2021 \$1 Fine Silver Proof Coin – Kangaroo Series Outback Majesty RRP \$105.00

2021 \$1 Fine Silver Fr unc Coin - Kangaroo Series Outback Majesty RRP \$70.00

2021 \$100 Gold Proof Colour Domed Coin – The Milky Way RRP \$ 3,500.00

2021 \$5 Silver Proof Colour Domed Coin -- The Milky Way RRP \$135.00

Orange Coins & Stamps advertisement page 4

They will be available for purchase after on that date, however, the latest advice received from the RAM does advise that there may be a delay in delivery due to high demand and insufficient stock available.

Place an order via email or telephone. Payment can be made by PayPal or credit card. Postage costs kept to a minimum.

We are only a phone call away.....02 6362 2368 (please leave message)

Shop direct on my EBay store - <http://stores.ebay.com.au/orangestampsandcoins>



ORANGE STAMPS AND COINS

P.O. Box 9288, Orange. 2800
Email: howard.lyons@bigpond.com



3 Barrack St Sydney 2000

Ph (02) 9299 2047 & Fax (02) 9290 3710 remains the same. Their e-mail address is sales@wynyardcoins.com.au

Whether you want advice or can't find what you're looking for, contact us. We have a wide array of collectables in our store and our friendly team will be happy to assist you. Call us today on +612 9299 2047, or send an email to sales@wynyardcoins.com.au or shop on-line.

Regular Opening Hours:
Monday to Friday - 8:30am - 5:30pm
Saturday - 9:00am - 4:00pm
Sunday & Public Holiday – CLOSED

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Make an appointment visit our offices at
Shop 18, 331-335 Barrenjoey Road, Newport Beach, NSW.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST No 11 with “Simpy”
From Peter Simpfendorfer

The following items were sourced from back copies of *Stamp News*: -

November 1977: Ed Cummings was trading under his own name (Edward Cummings) so this was obviously prior to the establishment of Edlins.

Seven Seas Stamps announced major expansion plans which “will double the company’s office and storage accommodation” at Dubbo.

November 1980: Bumper edition of 242 pages, cover price \$1.25, guaranteed printing of 18,000 copies.

There were 5 pages of **BOX ADS** comprising a total of 83 ads with 24 of the ads being from firms based overseas. There was even an ad from former club member the late Raymond Siebels advertising a “**New Issue Service**” for Australia, GB and Pacific Islands.

Page 97 reported “As a result of anomalies brought to light by “Stamp News”, Australia Post has reversed a previous policy which prevented collectors and dealers placing orders with interstate philatelic sales centres where sales centres in their own state had sold out of items required.”

It was reported that a questionnaire and survey conducted by Australia Post of 12,000 stamp collectors and 2,338 members of the public revealed there were currently around one million people aged 14 years of age and over collecting stamps in Australia. I wonder how many there are today!

September 2008: Australia in Depth by Simon Dunkerley was devoted to the 1940 War Savings Stamps. The 6d blue stamp depicted an aeroplane was referred to in the article as a Spitfire. However, this is incorrect and the plane depicted is actually a Boulton Defiant. The 5/- brown stamp depicted artillery guns.

Rod Perry's **Woodchip Free Zone** was devoted to the Australian 1966 Queen's Head issues on cover including the coil stamps.

Glen Stephens reported that Austria had to withdraw thousands of expensive stamps issued for Euro 08 soccer tournament as the rubber material they were printed on would not stick to envelopes.

November 2008: Glen Stephens regular **Market Matters** had expanded to six pages. His most famous and consistent regular mantra is "Knowledge is power".

Woodchip Free Zone by Rod Perry featured usage of stamps from the 1978 Australian Trees issue. Only two solo frankings of the 25c Ghost Gum Tree had been seen and these covers were valued at \$100 each.

February 2009: Christer Brunstrom wrote on "**ALBANIA'S UNWANTED PRINCE**" – Prince William of Wied (Germany) who was officially appointed Prince of Albania on March 7, 1914.

Cinderella Corner by Tony Presgrave included information on stamps for **Snark Island** which was based on the poem **The Hunting of the Snark** by Lewis Carroll. The island was said to be located near the north-west tip of New Guinea.

The following is from **The Philatelic Exporter (UK) November 1978:** The front cover contained the claim "World's greatest stamp trade journal" and this edition comprised 122 pages, and was mostly full of advertisements with no feature articles and little information about the hobby.

A massive attendance of 65,000 visitors was expected at the Essen, West Germany international stamp fair to be held in early November 1978.

Australasian Stamps was a short-lived magazine with a cover price of \$5.99 in **May 2000**. At this time the editor was Eric Dixon and the issue comprised 50 pages.

The feature article of 4 pages was titled "A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE: THE HEARD ISLAND POST OFFICE 1947 TO 1955".

Another single-page article was titled "FRENCH EXPLORATION OF AUSTRALASIA AND THE BAUDIN BICENTENARY".

TRAIN MAIL ROBBERIES OF THE 1930's

There were two big train robberies in New South Wales in the 1930's and one in 1941.

The first was the holdup of the Mudgee Mail train in the Blue Mountains in 1930. The next year the Canberra Mail was robbed. The third occurred 10 years later when a rail pay bus was blown up north of Mittagong.

About midnight on Tuesday, April 8 1930 a most daring robbery of the Mudgee Mail train took place.

Desperate Bandits Rob Mudgee Mail of £4500

**GUARD KNOCKED SENSELESS AND
ESCORT HELD UP AT REVOLVER
POINT BY MASKED MEN**

*Jumped Clear as Train Was Slowing Down on
Mountains Near Glenbrook*

"I'LL SHOOT YOU DEAD IF YOU MOVE!"

*In the most desperate and sensational train robbery Australia
has known, two masked and armed men held up a guard and an
escort in the mail van of the Mudgee Express at Emu Plains late
last night, rifled the mails, and got away with £4500.*

The guard, E. Squires (45), was knocked senseless, and, while one of the bandits held the escort at bay, the other ransacked the mail bags and bundles until he discovered the bag containing the money, which, it is belived also included cheques for £13,000. These will now be cancelled.

THE guard and the escort were then held at revolver-point by the men, who boarded the train at Emu Plains until the express slowed down near a tunnel, just on the Sydney side of Glenbrook.

Running to the door of the van



The Mudgee Mail train at Neilrex in the 1930's.

The heist was conceived by Roy Wilkinson, a 24 year old railway porter. Wilkinson had been serving as an armed escort on the nightly mail train from Sydney to Mudgee and beyond, the Mudgee Mail. It carried the fortnightly pay roll for rail workers on the Mudgee

line which extended as far north as Binnaway and Gwabegar. He put the idea to Joseph Ryan, an established criminal. Ryan roped in two others, Arthur Collins and George Morris,



Joseph Ryan



Emu Plains Railway Station is at the foot of the climb up Lapstone Hill to Glenbrook. In the 1930's was a regular stop to drop off for mail bags from Sydney for the Mudgee Mail train.

The haul by the thieves when they robbed the train as it passed through the Blue Mountains west of Sydney on the way to Mudgee was put at £18,000 in cash and cheques. The money included pay for workers on the Mudgee and Coonabarabran railway line.

On April 17 the State Government Gazette advised: "Whereas shortly after 11pm on April 8, 1930, two armed men entered the guard's van on the Mudgee Mail train which had just left the Emu Plains Railway Station, they bailed up the escorting porter and the guard, deprived the former of his revolver and forced open a steel chest. From the steel chest they stole two boxes and an attaché case containing the sum of £4,702 in cash, and cheques to the value of £13,500, together with pay sheets and envelopes."

Wilkinson knew about the fortnightly rail employees pay that was carried on the train. In later court proceedings where Morris turned "King's witness", it was alleged Wilkinson told Joseph Harold Ryan, "a known gangster", that the train could easily be robbed. Ryan, it was claimed, brought two other criminal associates, Arthur Collins and George Morris, into the plot.

The robbery was planned for the night of Tuesday, 8 April 1930, but Wilkinson was not rostered for escort work on that night. In his place were two other railway guards, Kenneth Allen and Albert Squires.



Albert Squires

When the train stopped at Emu Plains, Ryan and Collins boarded from the opposite, northern platform. Wearing disguises they entered the guards van and held up the guards at gun-point. Squires dared to make a move and was struck on the jaw. Allen was disarmed and the two men were bound and gagged. The bandits then seized the bullion chest containing £18,000 in cheques and banknotes, and slid it across the floor out of the door, a little before the train slowed on the climb to the Glenbrook Tunnel. They jumped out after it.

All of this money was the property of the NSW Rail Commissioners and was not registered mail. The registered mail bags which possibly could have contained cash destined for banks, and other valuable items, were left alone.

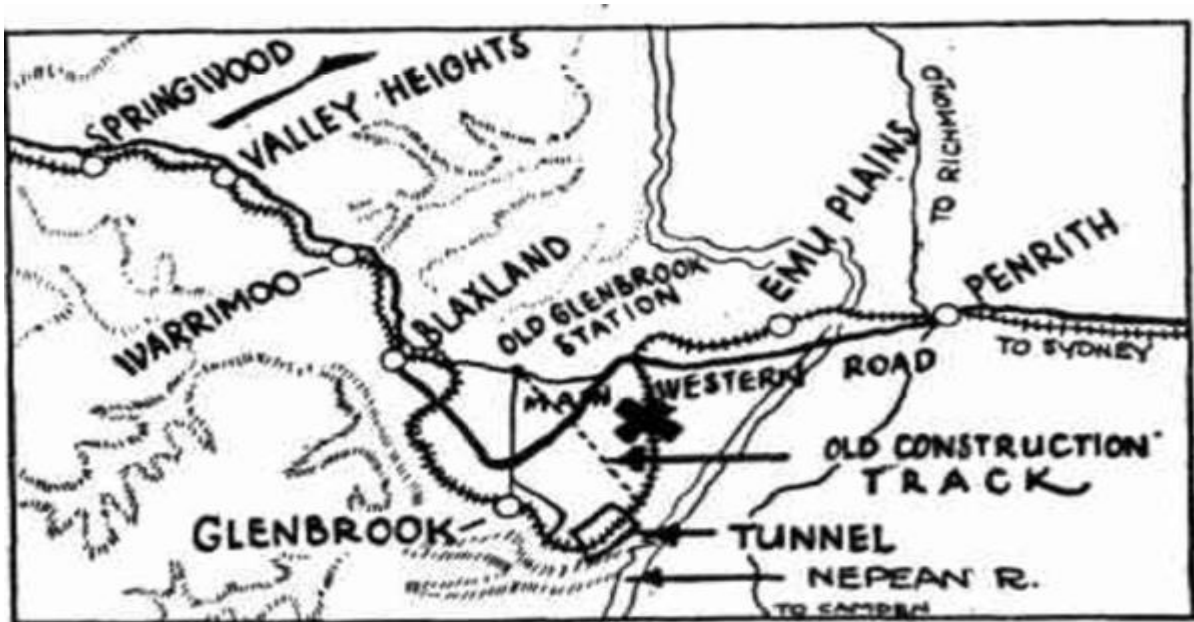
It was later alleged the two robbers took the haul to a getaway-car driven by George Morris who was waiting a little further down the track. The money was hidden on Morris's property at Mulgoa, near Penrith at the foot of the Blue Mountains west of Sydney.

The guard pulled the emergency alarm to stop the train. There was no sign of the robbers and the train continued to Glenbrook station.

Police searched the area for the robbers, only finding two "swaggies" who were camped by the Nepean River. The men were charged on minor offences but were considered not to have played any part in robbing the train. Police found no trace of the robbers.

Detectives later set up a re-enactment based on statements from Allen and Squires. The following photos were taken by the Fairfax Press: -





"X" marks were the robbers jumped from the train and the boxes were thrown out.

The two guards, Allen and Squires, were not implicated in the robbery. However, they were judged guilty of neglect of duty by their superiors and summarily dismissed. The *Truth* newspaper ran a feature on Squires and his family, which may have helped in having both men reinstated.

While police were still trying to solve the case, Arthur Collins was involved in a jewellery heist in Sydney. Joe Ryan and George Morris kept themselves busy with another railway robbery in Queanbeyan a year later. When Collins was charged with the jewellery theft, he did a deal with police. He informed on Ryan in relation to both train robberies and received a suspended sentence. He paid a heavy price; twenty five stitches were inserted in his head after he was brutally beaten by three men. Criminals do not take kindly to those they label 'dogs'. Collins received a suspended sentence for the jewel theft and was ordered to leave New South Wales immediately.

**ADMITS HE TOOK PART IN
TWO BIG ROBBERIES**

Never Charged, Says Witness

SYDNEY, Wednesday.

George Morris, who has turned King's evidence in the case in which Joseph Harold Ryan, aged 35, motor driver, is charged with the armed robbery of £4,703 from the Mudgee mail train on April 8, 1930, admitted in evidence today that he was a postmaster at the time of the Canberra mail robbery of £10,000, in which he took an active part.

Ryan, the Crown alleged, in company with a man named Collins, held up the crew of the guard's van of the Mudgee mail train with a revolver, and stole £4,703.

The trial was continued today before Judge White at the Sydney Quarter Sessions.

Mr. Curtis, K.C. (leading counsel for

Questioned about evidence he had given of the Canberra mail robbery Morris agreed that he had then said that he was absolutely sincere in stating that he was anxious to live down his past, referring to a conviction recorded against him in Victoria about 14 years ago.

Mr. Curtis—At the time you ma

MUDGEE MAIL ROBBERY

**G. MORRIS ADMITS
COMPLICITY**

**A. COLLINS REFUSES TO
ANSWER QUESTIONS**

Sydney, Oct. 9.

When the trial was resumed to-day at the Quarter Sessions of Joseph Harold Ryan (35), motor mechanic, on a charge of having stolen £4703 from the Railway Commissioners by assaulting the guard of the Mudgee mail train, at Emu Plains, on April 8, 1930, Mr. Curtis, K.C., senior counsel for Ryan, further cross-examined George Morris, who admitted his complicity in both the Mudgee and the Canberra mail robberies.

In the trial of Joseph Harold Ryan over the Mudgee Mail robbery, this exchange occurred in the Sydney Quarter Sessions Court in October 1935: -

Counsel for Ryan to Morris: You were a postal official at the time of the Canberra mail robbery?

Morris: Yes.

Counsel: Of your own free will you took part in the plans preceding the Mudgee Mail robbery and the carrying out of the robbery itself?

Morris: Yes.

Detectives told a newspaper they thought Morris, of Alexandria, Sydney, knew about most of the crimes in NSW committed since the Mudgee Mail robbery, including the later fatal attack on a pay van.

THE QEANBEYAN MAIL ROBBERY OF 1931

Just a year after the Mudgee Mail robbery, mail bags containing £10,000 in banknotes, in packets addressed to Canberra banks, were taken when the Cooma Mail Train divided at Queanbeyan on 1 May 1931. One part of the train went south to Cooma and the other portion went the short distance to Canberra. The mail bags were normally unloaded on to the platform at Queanbeyan from the Cooma-bound section and re-loaded on to the Canberra section of the train.

Four men were charged and much of the money was recovered, some of it turning up as far afield as Bendigo in Victoria.

Officials in Canberra said at the time whoever was responsible for the robbery must have had intimate knowledge of the way in which the notes were periodically sent from Sydney to Canberra.

One of the men charged was Lancelot Verne Lynch, 31, a postal assistant.

Two of the other men charged were Arthur Collins, 30, a motor mechanic, and Joseph Harold Ryan, 31, motor driver.



The bags were left here, on Queanbeyan Railway Station platform, awaiting transfer to the Canberra portion of the train.

MAIL ROBBERY

Haul of £10,000

Bank-Notes for Canberra

Stolen in Transit

SYDNEY, May 1.
Bank notes to the value of £10,000 consigned by the Commonwealth Bank in Sydney by train to its branch in Canberra were stolen during transit last night. A number of mailbags, including, presumably, the bag containing the bank notes, were placed on the Canberra train in the evening, apparently intact. At their destination it was found that the registered bag containing the money had been stolen and another substituted for it. Complete mystery surrounds the theft.

CANBERRA MAIL ROBBERY.

Detective Allmond yesterday visited the G.P.O., and arrested a postal sorter, and, later, charged him at the Central Police Station with complicity in the theft of £10,000 in banknotes from the Canberra mail train on April 30.

The money was consigned by mail from the Commonwealth Bank, Sydney, to the bank's branch at Canberra, but upon arrival it was found that a mailbag filled with rubbish had been substituted for the one containing the money. Most of the stolen banknotes were subsequently recovered.

SMH Friday 5 June 1931

The charges most probably resulted from evidence of a robber-turned-informer. Collins and Ryan were charged with having stolen £10,000, property of the Postmaster General. The charges followed an extensive police surveillance operation based on the belief that someone with "inside knowledge" would have been involved.

The fourth man was James Caffrey, 30, labourer, who was charged with having received 200 pounds in bank notes knowing them to have been stolen. No evidence was given against Caffrey and at the request of the police he was discharged. Ryan and Collins, along with George Morris already had been linked to the Mudgee Mail robbery.

Outlining the case at the start of the hearing at Central Police Court on 11 June 1931, police said that on 30 April 1931, £10,000 was sent from Sydney by registered mail to Canberra, but on arrival the mail bag that had been substituted for the original contained only telephone directories and paper.

Later, £7,000 of the missing money was recovered from a farm near Penrith, and £200 pounds in five-pound notes was discovered in a deposit box under the name of Collins at the Commonwealth Bank.

A further £100 was retrieved from Ryan's flat, but Ryan would later deny claims it was part of the haul.

Morris turned up in the Canberra Mail case as a "King's witness." He and Percy Edward Jacobs gave evidence implicating Lynch and Ryan.

Jacobs, another postal employee, told the court he had met Lynch about three weeks before the robbery and in turn Lynch had introduced him to Ryan. He said Lynch had talked about "fixing the Canberra bag."

Jacobs said he had seen mail bags that were to be used in the robbery.

Police alleged Ryan and Lynch went to Queanbeyan to see how the mail was handled at the station. They noted it was left unattended for a short time.

Police said the plan was hatched for Ryan to drive to Queanbeyan with a duplicate bag and swap it for the real bag while the mail was unattended. On April 30, the plan was executed. By that time Jacobs had gone to Melbourne and police said he was no longer involved in the plot. It was noted Jacobs had been sentenced in Melbourne to 11 months jail on an unrelated matter.

The court heard that Lynch contacted George Morris, part-time postmaster and farmer at Mulgoa Road, near Penrith, to tell him of the plan. Ryan had driven to Morris's house and given him the bag, allegedly telling him "I have got the money, I want you to smoke it." Evidence was that most of the money was buried in a tin about 100 m from the Morris house. Sometime later Morris allegedly took £200 from the tin at Ryan's request and given it to Collins. Still later, the court was told, Ryan asked Morris to take £2,000 from the tin and give it to a man who would take it Melbourne where it could be exchanged. Morris told the court he showed police where the tin had been buried. Morris said he was compelled by Ryan to take part in the robbery; he feared that Ryan would tell people that he (Morris) was a convicted criminal. He was trying to live down his past.

There were some extraordinary twists to come. Police went to Mascot airport to inspect a two-seater *Sopwith* bi-plane said to be owned by the accused men. There was no money in the plane but, police said, it was ready to fly and one of the men held a pilot's licence.

Ryan and Lynch were to face court again in July charged with having stolen the money and an alternative charge of having received stolen money. Ryan, who had by then been charged over the Mudgee Mail robbery, failed to appear. A warrant was issued for his arrest.

CANBERRA MAIL ROBBERY

Postmaster's Wife Gives Evidence

Sydney, June 11.

Lancelot Verne Lynch (31), postal assistant, Arthur Collins (35), salesman, and Joseph Harold Ryan (31), motor driver, were again before the Central Police Court today charged with having stolen £10,000 in banknotes from the Canberra mail.

Ida Morris, wife of George Morris, postmaster at Mulgoa-road, near Penrith, when cross-examined by Mr. Clancy (for Ryan), said that she had not accused her husband of having been connected with the Mudgee mail train robbery near Penrith.

Mr. Moseley (for Collins) asked her, "Did your husband tell you last night that we asked him yesterday where he was on May 6, and tried to nail him with the Cohen robbery?"

Ida Morris replied, "You could not do that. He was home on that night."

Evidence was given of the placing of the registered mail containing the money on the Cooma mail train for transfer to the Canberra train at Queanbeyan.

Francis Joseph Parker, guard, said that the train reached Queanbeyan before daylight. He did not see the Canberra bags taken from the van, but five minutes later, when the train left for Cooma, he saw the mails on the platform. A porter was standing near them.

The hearing was adjourned.

Adelaide Advertiser & Register, 12 June 1931, p5

Police said they were searching extensively for Ryan but they did not hold out any definite hope of apprehending him immediately. There was no clue to his whereabouts; all his known "haunts" had been combed and all trains and shipping were being carefully watched. Lynch pleaded not guilty when he appeared for trial in December.

The police case was that Lynch marked the bags with the notes in them at the GPO so they could be readily identified.

In a statement from the dock Lynch said he was innocent and denied he had been associated with Ryan, Morris or any other persons. He said the Crown witnesses Jacobs and Morris had tried to "shelf" him to save their own skins.

Lynch denied he arranged to substitute a mail bag. He said he had no conversation with anyone regarding the taking of a mail bag. He said a statement by Jacobs that he had brought along a new mail bag wrapped in brown paper was a fabrication; he had never at any time given anyone a new mail bag, seals, or mail labels.

Lynch said he had never been to Queanbeyan; Picton was the farthest place on the southern line he had visited.

Morris was the chief witness in the case against Lynch, admitting that some of the stolen money had been recovered from his land but said he had not been charged in relation to it or the Mudgee Mail case, despite admitting in cross-examination in another hearing that he had taken part.

Lynch's trial ran for five days. The jury deliberated for about two hours and their "not guilty" verdict was greeted with applause from the gallery.

With Ryan still missing, the charges against Arthur Collins were heard.

In July, Collins pleaded guilty to having concealed knowledge of the theft of £10,000 pounds, the property of the Commonwealth Bank. It was the first charge of its kind (concealing knowledge of a crime) laid in Australia.

Collins was "bound over" to be of good behaviour for two years. The court heard police were satisfied Collins had nothing to do with the actual robbery; he was apparently sorry for what he had done and intended to make another start in another country. He was advised to do so as soon as possible.

Reports abounded about the whereabouts of Ryan. It was said he was possibly in England, other parts of Europe or even in the United States.

One newspaper report said he had been located in America "where he is said to be doing well." He had not been seen since 21 July 1931, at the Sydney Quarter Sessions Court.

As it turned out, after four years absence Ryan turned himself in to police on 19 June 1935. He said he had been in England.

The Crown Prosecutor told Judge Curlewis the next day: "This man's trial was listed for July 1931. He disappeared and visited England and now he has turned and given himself up to the police. I formally ask that he be committed for trial without bail."

Ryan sought bail but Judge Curlewis said: "I will refuse bail and as far as I am concerned it's for all time".

With that, Ryan prepared for trial. But there were to be more sensational turns of events. First, on Thursday 1 August after a four-day hearing, two charges – of stealing and having received the stolen 10,000 pounds in banknotes from the Canberra Mail – Ryan was acquitted.

Counsel for Ryan described Jacobs and Morris as "unmitigated liars," his concluding words being: "The rotten house the Crown has built you would not hang a dog on."

Summing up, Judge Curlewis told the jury that Jacobs and Morris, two of the main Crown witnesses, had been accomplices and it would be dangerous for the jury to convict on such uncorroborated evidence of accomplices, particularly when the pair were "so lost to decency and honour as they were." He regretted that he had to express himself so strongly.

Though acquitted on those charges, Ryan was remanded in custody; there was still another matter to be dealt with.

**RYAN JURY RETIRES
TO CONSIDER VERDICT**

SUMS UP

JUDGE ON ALIBI

FUNERAL STORY

WINS AT RACES

JUDGE WHITE having concluded his summing up, the jury in the Ryan trial at the Quarter Sessions retired at 10.30 a.m. to-day to consider its verdict. To-day was the sixth day of the trial.

Joseph Harold Ryan, 35, a motor-driver, was charged with having, in

to assist his alibi that at the time the robbery was actually committed he was at the home in the city of the people who had been bereaved through the death of the person whose funeral he had attended the afternoon.

"If you accept unreservedly the evidence of Ryan's witnesses, or the extent that a reasonable doubt is raised in your mind, the mainstay of the Crown case would be entirely removed," the judge told the jury.

It had not been disputed that the guard and escort of the Mudgee train had been assaulted and robbed, the only question remaining was whether Ryan was one of the two men who had carried out the robbery.

Counsel's Request

At the conclusion of the summing up, Mr. Curtis asked the judge to inform the jury that the witnesses who gave evidence in support of Ryan's alibi had to be accepted as persons of unblemished character. Further, counsel requested that the jury be told of the likely effect of a promise of a free pardon was made to Collins and Morris in giving of their evidence.

The Crown Prosecutor (Mr. Cra...

THE RAIL PAY VAN ROBBERY OF DECEMBER 1941

Ten years later, on 8th December 1941, a railways pay car was blown up between at Yanderra between Bargo and Moss Vale leaving three men dead. George Morris was later implicated in this robbery.



A N.S.W. Government Railways pay car (above) was blown up near Yanderra between Bargo and Moss Vale in 1941 on the main southern line, about 100 km from Sydney.

The car left Sydney carrying a payroll of £9,000 for workers, mostly gangers along the line, starting at Campbelltown and heading for Goulburn.

Most of the money was in the safe which remained intact but to this day around a quarter of the money has not been accounted for, believed to have been taken by the bandits. It is also thought people nearby may have picked up some of the money that was blown about in the explosion. Bank notes and coins were scattered over a wide area.

No one has faced court. There were suspicions and accusations. A newspaper noted: "Many aliens and discharged prisoners were questioned by police, soldiers on leave or absent without leave were interviewed and the movements of railways employees on leave and away from work were checked. The search for the bandits was extended all over Australia." The pay car was blown up just after midday on Monday, 8 December, on its regular fortnightly run along the line.

Two men were killed instantly in the explosion: George Sydney Randall (driver, of Marrickville aged 50) and Alfred Thomas Philpott (guard, of Ashbury, 52). A third, Frederick Walker (paymaster, of Elizabeth Bay, 53) died early the next day from his injuries. The explosion was massive; the wrecked petrol-powered car was blown 12 metres down an embankment, two large holes were torn in the permanent way and the heavy rails lay twisted.

A driver of a goods train travelling from Goulburn to Sydney was the first to see the wreckage. As he stopped his train, he saw two men in shorts running from the wrecked pay car. He left the fireman and guard to render first-aid and rushed to Bargo to get help. Police were joined by other railway workers in the search for the bandits or clues, but to no avail. Bank notes and money were scattered over a wide area, but the safe of the ill-fated car was intact. It is, therefore, believed that most of the money intended for pay for the railway men was been recovered, but it is impossible to say how much has been lost or stole

The robbers (the number was not confirmed but there were at least two) placed explosives under the track, covered by metal discs. The explosives were detonated from a distance, according to reports to an inquest in October 1942. It was thought dynamite was buried in the tracks and attached by an insulated wire to a battery that was discovered about 100m from where the explosion occurred.

The goods train driver who was first on the scene told the inquest one of the two men he saw running away appeared to be a foreigner: "He was very sun-tanned and looked like a foreigner. He wore khaki shorts, a dark singlet and was about 5ft 9in tall and of medium build. Both men were approximately the same age. They both had a good deal of hair." Berrima District Coroner, Mr. W. Terry, returned an open verdict after hearing the evidence. He said the outrage was "The most wicked thing he had ever heard of. There was no doubt that whoever blew up the car had no value for human life". He paid a tribute to the detectives and police connected with the case. The world by this time was in the grip of World War II, a number of reports noting that the train was blown up the same day as bombs rained down in Asia. A reward of £1,500 was offered over the pay car attack, to no avail.



The car in which Morris was shot in Millers Point

In 1944, Morris died in a volley of bullets while sitting in his car in Argyle Street, Millers Point. The first person police suspected in Morris' violent death was our old friend Joe Ryan. In early November he was arrested and committed for trial. And then, on November 24: -

MURDER CHARGE WITHDRAWN

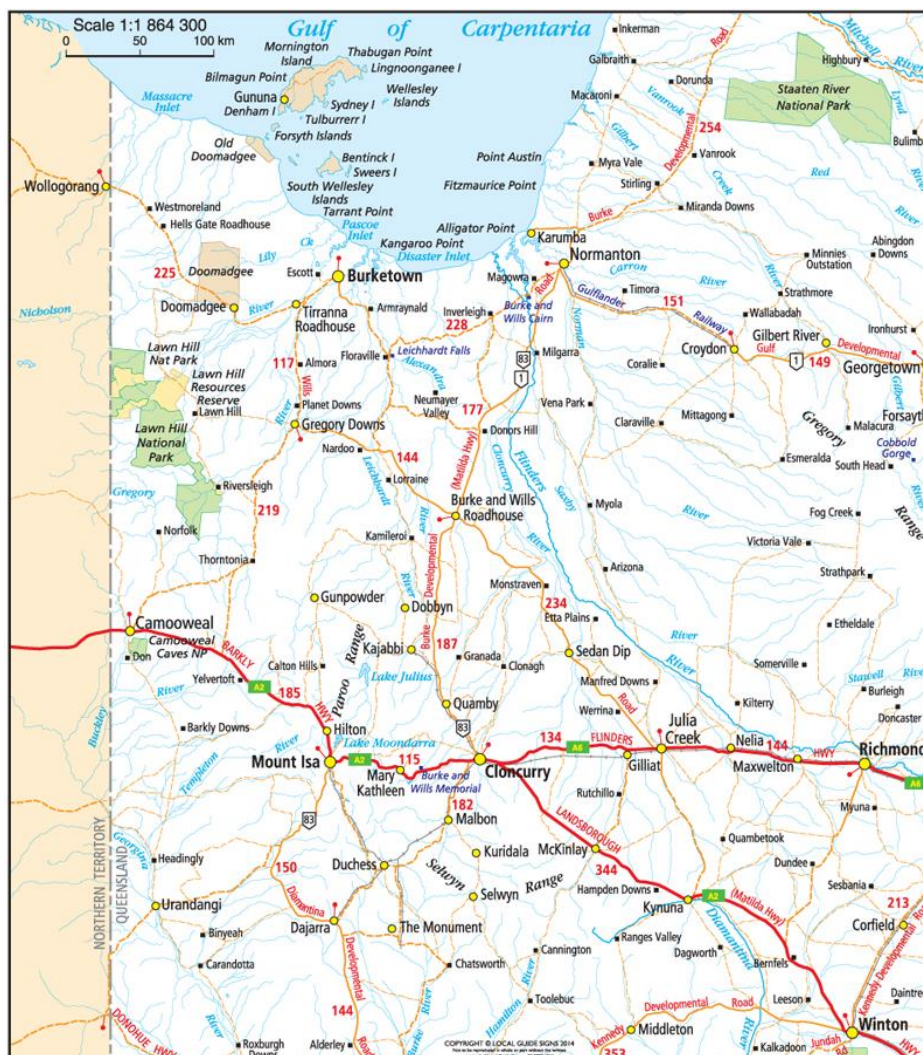
SYDNEY, Thurs: The Solicitor-General has directed that no bill be filed against Joseph Harold Ryan, who was committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court on a charge of having murdered George Arthur Morris, 43, engineer. Morris' body, in which were 12 bullet wounds, was found in his car at Millers point on March 29.

And what was the reason for the 'No-Bill'? Well, it turns out that Ryan was working on the waterfront at the time. And surprise, surprise....a workmate provided a watertight alibi for the night of the murder. No-one else was ever arrested over Morris's death.

The police suspected his old pal Ryan who was charged. However, Ryan provided a watertight alibi for the night of the murder.

THE DUCHESS TO MOUNT ISA TRAIN ROBBERY OF 31 AUGUST 1938

This robbery happened on the mail train between Duchess and Mt Isa in north-western Queensland on the morning of 31 August 1938. The Mount Isa Mines payroll of £3,000, sent by Registered Mail had disappeared



The railway line was extended from Duchess to Mount Isa on 6th April 1929. Ore from the new Mt Isa mine had previously been hauled to Duchess by horse wagons since 1923. The Mount Isa Mine had demanded a railway to their mine at any price. Duchess had been virtually abandoned since the copper mine and smelter closed in 1921. It was once Queensland's largest copper mine.

On Friday August 26, 1938 the Bank of New South Wales in Townsville parcelled up £3,000 for their branch in Mount Isa. It was to be paid as wages for the employees of Mount Isa Mines. When they parcelled-up the money they recorded the serial numbers of the mostly-consecutive new banknotes and placed them in the safe for the mail train to Mount Isa and leaving on 29 August. They were placed in tagged packages to the main Townsville Post Office, registered, and then placed inside a small bag, which in turn was placed in one of the Mail Bags for Mt Isa. The mail contractor took the bags the Townsville Railway Station, 2km distant, and transferred them the railway staff. Every parcel was signed for each time it changed hands.

The Acting Postmaster at Mt Isa went to the railway station there at 8am on Wednesday 31st August 1938. He went to the mail van at the front of the train. He examined the two mail bags for Mt Isa and noticed that they had been tampered with. The Registered Mail from each bag was missing. He then handed the bags to the Mt Isa Police. The bags had been loosely tied with non-standard green string. Somewhere between Townsville and Mt Isa the pay-roll money had been taken from two standard bags out of sixteen bags sent.



When the weekly Mail train arrived at (or left) Mount Isa the train drew big crowds in the 1930's. If you left Brisbane on Monday night the trip, via Townsville took till Friday morning.

The Mt Isa police immediately started their investigations. The railway locks on the mail van were intact when the train left Cloncurry. But when the train arrived at Mt Isa it was noticed that one of the locks had been wrenched off and a non-railway lock substituted. Fourteen other mail bags had been left untouched. The Police assumed that the thieves had knowledge of mail-handling and train arrangements. They assumed an "inside job".

Details of the serial numbers of the stolen notes were circulated to all Queensland large police stations and business houses, banks and hotels.



Mount Isa in 1932

Two detective were sent to Cloncurry, the nearest large town to Mt Isa, on the fledgling Qantas air service. They went by train from Cloncurry to Mt Isa. Queensland newspapers were able to report on 10 September 1938 that the detectives “had made considerable progress” and confirmed that the robbery had taken place between Duchess and Mt Isa. On the 14th September 1938, newspapers reported that police had narrowed down their enquiries to a few suspects. On the 16th it was reported that Frances Walsh (42), a guard, had been charged with the robbery at Cloncurry Police Station and had been granted bail.



The Cloncurry mail train at Charters Towers in the 1920's before the line was extended to Mt Isa. The first carriage was the T.P.O. This T.P.O. service finished in 1932.

In court Walsh was implicated, even though none of the money had been found. It was at Duchess that guard Walsh handed over to guard Smith. In evidence Smith had testified that Walsh had deliberately prevented him from entering the mail van at Duchess. Despite that, Walsh had handed over the keys to the van. Under cross-examination Smith admitted that there was nothing stopping him from entering the van then. He said he was not suggesting Walsh would use violence against him doing so. Between Duchess and Mt Isa he had searched the train unsuccessfully for a “train jumper”. He had spoken to Police at Mt Isa about the “train jumper”, but that was before the robbery was uncovered.

MAIL TRAIN ROBBERY.

BRISBANE DETECTIVES.

Called In To Assist.

BRISBANE, September 4.
Brisbane detectives have been called in to assist in locating the £3000 in notes and the men responsible for stealing it from the Townsville-Mt. Isa mail train, on Tuesday night.

Detective Senior Sergeant D. Mahony and Detective Sergeant T. Lloyd were sent by plane from Brisbane on Friday and on reaching Cloncurry studied the information already gathered by northern detectives.

Detective Senior Sergeant Mahony investigated the big bank robbery at Cloncurry in 1932, when £19,931 was stolen from the Queensland National Bank and £3298 from the Bank of New South Wales. Detective Sergeant T. Lloyd has had a good deal of experience with northern criminals.

Police contend that if an armed police escort was sent with large sums of money in transit by rail this daring type of robbery would be wiped out.

It is thought that the robbery occurred after Cloncurry, as the locks on the mail van were apparently intact when the train reached Cloncurry.

Police are unable to decide whether the work was planned and carried out by one man, or is the result of the operations of a clever gang of criminals which has made a close study of means by which money is transmitted to bank or business houses. Those responsible for the robbery evidently knew the Townsville-Mt. Isa line well and the train's schedule and the duties of the train crew.

This is the third large robbery from a mail train on this line. In December, 1926, £5000, the property of the Queensland National Bank, was stolen. In March, 1931, a parcel containing £1000, consigned from the Townsville branch of the Queensland National Bank to the Cloncurry branch of the bank was removed from a mail bag between Townsville and Cloncurry.

Thieves who obtained the £3000 evidently had plenty of time to carry out their plans. They carefully cut the string around the neck of the bag under the seal, and then so skilfully retied it after removing the notes that it was not until a very close examination of the string was made that the cut was discovered. After the robbery of the banks at Cloncurry in 1932 detectives held the theory that the robbery, along with those from the trains, were organised by a clever criminal long resident in the North.

To rob the banks the thieves used duplicate keys. It is believed that the Queensland National Bank was entered first and from the strongroom was taken an emergency set of keys for the Bank of New South Wales. When the banks were opened for business nothing suspicious was noticed until the strong room was opened and it was found that practically all the money in notes in the bank and a good deal of the silver had been removed.

In May, 1930, duplicate keys were used to obtain £4900 in notes from the Townsville branch of the National Bank of Australasia.

Although the numbers of the notes lost in these robberies were known to police, and were circulated throughout Queensland and in the Southern States, some of the money at least found its way into circulation again.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 6th September 1938

Walsh was questioned about the string that was found in his kit and identical string around the two mail bags. Detective Lloyd admitted that string of this type could be found at any railway station. A postal official later testified that the string had been used to tie up loose letters at the Townsville Post Office that were en-route on the “robbed” train. Lloyd admitted he had not enquired about the possibility of other railway employees having this string in their possession.

In court Walsh admitted he intended going to Melbourne with two other mates. In later evidence, Walsh stated that in a report he made, driver Hides had become sick at Devoncourt, between Cloncurry and Duchess and went back to the guard’s van for a break. Walsh then took his place on the engine. The report was later amended to state that he had joined the engine in Cloncurry. This vacation of his post, he said, would have given thieves the opportunity to enter the mail van undetected.

Despite many witnesses appearing for the prosecution and only one for the defence, Walsh was discharged due to lack of evidence. Evidence pointing to him, the judge pointed out, was entirely circumstantial. Nothing happened for another 66 years...and no notes were found.

The A.B.C reported on a death-bed confession in February 2005. Police reported that they were investigating a “well-known” local who had confessed to committing the 1938 robbery.

The local, allegedly told a friend that he and two accomplices stole the pay-roll. It was alleged that two men jumped on to the slow-moving train from horseback somewhere near Duchess, 90km from Mt Isa between 7pm and 7.30pm. He admitted that he stole two unguarded mail bags. A third man helped with the horses. It is alleged that they rode to Camooweal where they had an established alibi. It was alleged that the two accomplices were dead. Police reported that a retired policeman had heard the man’s confession and had reported it.

The ABC was told that the money was used by the robbers “to set themselves up over the years” and they had grown moderately wealthy from it.

Senior Constable Steve Webber told the A.B.C. Northwest Queensland reporter that the police now know who did it but nothing can be done.



Departure of the weekly Mount Isa Mail train in 1937

THE TAX ON PLAYING CARDS

1. PLAYING CARD TAXES IN BRITAIN

Anyone who is vaguely familiar with British history will be aware that they have had some “different” taxes over the years.

Take for instance the Hearth Tax in which you paid based on the number of fireplaces in your house, the Window Tax was the same but was based on the number of windows you had. The Clock Tax, the Candle Tax, the Soap Tax, even a Beard Tax are others just to mention a few – and all were used as a means to raise funds for the government of the day.

One of the most notorious taxes was the tax on playing card packs.

Playing card packs had been taxed since about 1588, but in 1710 the English Government dramatically raised the taxes on them, which the manufacturer was then liable for. As the rate of tax was equivalent to 12 times the price of a cheap pack of cards, you can imagine that there were forgeries.



This red ink, tax stamp was used from 1718 to 1744. The value is “VI PENCE” with a “4” below. The stamp was usually applied to the Ace of Spades.

But in a bid to prevent this, each manufacturer had their own ‘mark’, and would hand stamp their mark on the Ace of Spades to show that it was a legitimate version.

Still, as the taxes were excessive, forgeries happened. And while creating forgeries of playing cards doesn’t sound too drastic, if you were caught making them the result was hanging. It was a capital offence.

Until 1828, in order to show that the tax for a specific deck of cards has been paid, a hand stamp was used on one card after the wrapper had been removed. Because the Ace of Spades was the first playing card you see when you open the deck (it’s always the card on the top), officials used to mark the Ace of Spades with their stamps



The 1828 to 1862 “Old Frizzle” Duty Ace

In 1828, the stamp practice was replaced with officially printed Aces of Spades. These cards were printed on behalf of the Commissioners of Stamps by the Perkins Bacon Company. When this card was placed inside the deck, it meant that the manufacturing company had paid the reduced shillings (from 2/6d it was reduced to 1/-). Those Aces were known as the 'Old Frizzle' and actually looked pretty similar to a bank note. The printers were firms we associate with stamp printing.

This practice was used all the way up to 1862, when **Duty Ace** was abolished and playing card manufacturers were free to add their own designs on the ace of spades. Because it was already a tradition to have decorated Ace of Spades, the manufacturers produced their own designs for branding purposes. The 1862 Act reduced the duty on card packs to 3d.

In the 1960, the tax was formally put to an end but the custom of decorating the Aces of Spades remained and this is why, even today, the Ace of Spades is the prettiest card in the deck.

Post-1862 3d Duty designs: -



2. PLAYING CARD TAX IN AUSTRALIA

Playing cards started to be printed in Australia in the 1920's. Before then they were mainly imported from Britain and Belgium. Playing Card taxes had been paid there by the exporters. None were printed here after 1949.

The key date is the introduction of the Excise Duty in 1932. From then onward all Australian manufacturers had to have their code number printed on each pack, as well as '*Made In Australia*'. This makes it much easier to identify decks, as prior to 1932 there was no such requirement, and often our local decks can look just like ones printed overseas. Taxation on playing cards was repealed in 1983.

The codes were usually in a circle or a triangle and are as follows:

NSW

Paper Products (Reed Paper Products) 1/4

VIC

Sands McDougall 1/3

Spicer Detmold 2/3

Hudson Industries 3/3



Tiger Brand by Sands and MacDougall showed a 1/3 Australian Tax Office excise code



St George Brand by Spicer Detmold showed a 2/3 Australian Tax Office excise code



The Ace of Spades in an Australian-printed playing pack did not have to show "Tax Paid", but this card still tended to mimic the British practice of having an elaborate design

3. UNITED STATES 1862-1960 PLAYING CARD TAX STAMPS



US revenue stamps, some overprinted “PLAYING CARDS”, were included in the U.S. revenue general issues of 1862-1871, but after the general issue was retired in 1871, other revenue stamps were used to indicate the payment of the 2c per pack United States Federal tax on playing cards.

A new series of revenue stamps, designed specifically for the 2c per pack Federal tax on the sale of playing cards, were introduced in 1894. The lake coloured stamps was inscribed “ON DEMAND / AUG 1894” and shows a hand of cards



A further three blue-coloured stamps were issued between 1894 and 1902. These were inscribed “ACT OF / 1894”.

In most cases the Playing Card revenue stamps were pre-cancelled with the name of the manufacturer.

When the United States entered World War I in 1917 the Playing Card Tax was increased to 7c, to help boost government revenue. The earlier 2cent issues were overprinted either vertically or horizontally with the new 7c rate.



Four, vertical, non-denominated, "PLAYING CARD" revenue stamps were issued in 1918 to replace the overprints. The one on the left, below, was imperforate. Others were perforated or part-perforated: -



Three provisional, overprinted issues were released in 1919 to show the newly-increased Playing Card Tax rate of 8c: -



A new, non-denominated, 10c rate, small-format playing cards US revenue stamps shown, below, were issued during 1922. Both varieties are shown above. The central design features a circle containing "CLASS / A": -



The denominated major-type playing cards US revenue stamps shown above were issued between 1924 and 1929. The central design of these new stamps features a denomination numeral.

The new playing cards stamps were produced in three different formats --

rouletted, vertically-perforated coils, and perforated. The coil stamps only exist pre-cancelled.



The wide-format denominated major-type playing cards US revenue stamps shown, below, were issued between 1929 and 1931. The central design of these new stamps features a denomination numeral. These new playing cards stamps were produced in two different formats -- horizontally-perforated coils, and perforated. The coil stamps only exist pre-cancelled.



The wide-format, non-denominated major-type playing cards US revenue stamps shown, below, were issued in 1940. The central design of these new stamps is inscribed "1 PACK", indicating that each stamp is valid for the payment of the tax on a single deck of playing cards.



They were produced in two different formats -- horizontally-perforated coils, and perforated. The coil stamps only exist pre-cancelled.



Tax stamp on a card deck

These non-denominated playing cards stamps continued in use, until the playing cards tax was repealed on June 22, 1965.

4. CANADA'S PLAYING CARD TAX STAMPS



Playing cards were taxed in Canada from 1918 as a War Tax. Packs of cards showed a Canadian War Tax revenue stamp.

From 1927 to 1935 the tax was increased to 10c per pack. From 1941-21 the tax was increased to 15c. The tax was repealed in the 1960's.

General Canadian revenue stamps were used, however, in 1947 a single stamp showing the words "PLAYING CARDS / - EXCISE TAX PAID -" was issued.



TONY READ'S TALK ON SOME AUSTRALIAN TRADE TOKENS

Given at the November 2020 Club meeting

Tony Read started by saying that the reason for tokens, in lieu of actual coins, was that in the 19th Century there were very few copper or silver coins circulating. Most of the half-penny coins were counterfeits. In the 18th Century the penny was a silver coin that was rarely seen in circulation and then mainly as maundy money. The farthing was made from copper.

So in Britain, in 1787, hundreds of pounds sterling in half-penny and farthing tokens ended up being produced. These were decrees by the Bank of England, however, as these were not to be considered as legal tender.

James Watt and Matthew Boulton, who developed a steam-powered coin press, were awarded a contract to produce copper coins in 1797 at his Soho Mint in Birmingham. These were called 'cart-wheel' pennies. They struck millions of these pennies over the next decade – so many, that 1d coins did not have to be minted again till 1825.



Boulton-produced Cartwheel penny of 1797

Silver coins were traditionally struck in the Tower of London, but in 1797 a new coin mill, using steam power, opened at nearby Tower Hill. Almost straight after the Napoleonic Wars with France created a demand for small coins. This caused the tokens, formerly declared not to be legal tender were declared legal.

In 1816 the Tower Mint in London started minting new coinage, obviating the need for further token production. New copper pennies and half-pennies were minted. The trouble was that very few of these were sent out to the Australian colonies

The colonial shortage caused a Melbourne grocer, Annand Smith & Co, to produce tokens.



Smith's tokens were struck at Birmingham's Soho Mint. They produced 2 batches from that mint for Annand Smith & Co. Each batch had mass of 5cwt.

Later, J. McFarlane, a wholesale and retail grocer, in business in Melbourne 1850 and 1851, issued a similar 1d token.



Later, Annand Smith & Co wanted another batch of 1d tokens, but found the Soho Mint had been sold in 1850. He had to procure the next batch from Heaton & Sons, the new owners, in 1851. These tokens had the letters "HS" inscribed beside *Britannia's* shield.

Tony Read also pointed out that quite a few trade tokens were produced at that time for use in Ireland.

Gold was discovered in New South Wales in May 1851. The new Victorian colonial government had offered a reward of £10,000 for the discovery of a gold-field there. In mid-1851 the population was only 77,000 with 23,000 in Melbourne. When gold was discovered at Ballarat in October 1851 the population trebled.

The first tokens manufactured in Australia for general use were for the Tea Stores Steam Coffee Mill, owned by Samuel Peek of Samuel Peek & Co. They were issued in 1852, they were made by John Thornthwaite, medallist and die-sinker, who had immigrated to the colony as a free-settler in 1849. These were 1d, 34mm and ½d, 29mm copper tokens. These are quite rare and Tony did not have one to show.



Halfpenny Teas Stores Steam Coffee Mill copper token of 1852

At the Great Exhibition of 1851, in England, W.J. Taylor exhibited his coin press. His largest project was the Kangaroo Office at Port Phillip between 1853 and 1857 – a venture intended to take advantage of the explosive economic growth in Australia following the discovery of gold in 1851.

Reginald Scaife, manager of the Kangaroo Office, arrived in Melbourne on 26 October 1853 on board the clipper Kangaroo. The Kangaroo had been built, chartered and outfitted by a group of London entrepreneurs looking to exploit the Victorian gold rush, which was then in full swing.

Scaife's wife and child were on board with him on the 'Kangaroo', along with stock for the business and the crated parts of a prefabricated building. There was also a hand-operated screw press, a number of dies for striking halfpenny tokens (some already cut in London and others ready to be cut to order in Melbourne) and a supply of halfpenny-sized copper blanks. The dies were the work of W.J. Taylor, a noted London diesinker, engraver and medallist. Arriving in Melbourne at the peak of the gold rush, Scaife found it difficult to obtain a site for the business, or labourers to construct the building. In addition, the press was too heavy for the dockside cranes to lift it from the ship and it had had to be taken apart to be unloaded. He eventually located premises in West Franklin Street, finally opening for business around April 1854.

After battling to build the store and prepare the press, the Kangaroo Office was not a success. Melbourne was not the centre of opportunity that the business' backers hoped it might be. The colony was glutted with stores and supplies similar to those brought out on the 'Kangaroo', and few people saw any need for halfpenny tokens to be struck on the press. During his time operating the Kangaroo Office, Scaife struck only five issues of tokens and had difficulty meeting his costs.



The Kangaroo Office's most successful operation was at the 1854 Melbourne Exhibition, where the press was set up to strike tin tokens commemorating the event. Scaife won an award at the Exhibition for the tokens he struck there.

Before the end of the Exhibition, Scaife also struck 27 sets of gold tokens from purpose made dies, ranging in weight between two ounces and a quarter of an ounce. Today these tokens are known as Port Phillip Gold tokens. Two sets were exhibited at Melbourne then to be sent to the 1855 Paris International Exhibition. These pieces are extremely rare today; the only known complete set is held by the British Museum. The full set consists of a 2oz, a 1oz a ½oz and a ¼oz 'coin'. Since the mid-19th century, these tokens have been represented to collectors as patterns for a proposed Victorian currency. Contemporary records, however, indicate that Scaife struck the tokens for sale as mementoes of the Exhibition in an attempt to stimulate his ailing business.

In 1857 the Kangaroo Office closed and the press was sold to Thomas Stokes. In the intervening period the press appears to have stood idle, and Scaife acted as an agent for Agricultural Societies, sending orders for medals to Taylor in London. Having failed in his attempt to combine storekeeping and operating a mint, Scaife became an agent for the Victoria Insurance Company and remained in Victoria for a number of years before returning to England.

Thomas Stokes had arrived in Melbourne in 1854. His profession was a die sinker and pattern marker. Stokes did not find gold, so he returned to his trade as a diesinker and button maker. In 1856 he established a successful business at 15 Mincing Lane, Melbourne, and soon moved to larger premises at 115 Flinders Lane.

In 1857 Stokes when he acquired the press from the W.J. Taylor-funded 'Kangaroo Office', he began to mint large numbers of tradesman's tokens as well as commence the Australian Medallist Issues. Within a short time the business moved again, to 100 Collins Street. Between 1860 and 1868 Stokes advertised eight times in Melbourne Directories. In 1860 he described himself as a 'Die Sinker, Seal Engraver, Letter Cutter, Stamper, Embossing Press, Button, Check, and Token Maker.' By 1865 he had added 'Medallist &c.,' to his list of accomplishments, but there is little evidence that his business changed greatly over the first ten or so years of operation.

The population of Victoria had increased to 540,000 by 1854 so the need for coins was much in excess of supply. There was a great need in Ballarat, which ended up having the most token issues of any place in the Australian colonies.





There was J.R. Grundy the Tobacco merchant, who opened a tobacco shop in Ballarat in 1856. He issued tokens in 1861. He issued 2 types of 1d, 32mm copper tokens. These were engraved by Heaton & Sons.



Also there was a J. Taylor, who built a bakery in Ballarat in 1856 and called it the *Red House*. There were 15 issues of his 1d, 32mm token in 1862.



Southwood & Sumpton, grocers and wine merchants of Ballarat, also produced 1d, 32mm-diameter copper tokens showing their “ADVANCE BALLARAT” motto circa-1862.



David Jones of the Criterion Drapery in Ballarat also produced 1d, 32mm-diameter, copper tokens in 1862.



Lastly, W.R. Watson & Co, owner of Ballarat's Town Hall Hotel, produced an issue of 1d, bronze, 34mm-diameter tokens in 1862. The reverse showed a grape vine from a stock Stokes die.

In 1863 the Victorian Government decided it would no longer accept tokens for payment. This followed the roll-out of bronze 1d coins in 1860. In 1868 the New South Wales government demonetised them. By 1884, 330,000 tokens had been sent off for melting.

Tony added that tokens were produced by 135 businesses in the Australian colonies.



No tokens were produced for businesses in Orange but Bathurst had a 1d, 34mm-diameter, copper trade token produced for Collins & Co.'s Cheap Clothing Bazaar in 1864. It was minted by Stokes.

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