

AMONG THE SOCIETIES

TARANAKI PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

This society has now three branches: New Plymouth, 60 members; Hawera, 25 members; and Stratford, 9 members. The total membership is now near the century, which was the aim of the Society for the first year, and there is yet 4 months to go. In the next few months it is hoped to form branches at Inglewood, Waitara, and Opunake, and maybe more, thus covering the whole province of Taranaki. Each branch a section runs its own meetings, business, and displays, etc., while the parent body runs the Exchange books and Library. New Plymouth January meeting brought forth some interesting mistakes and errors in stamps; February meeting was Postal Stationery and Envelopes; a fine display.

Hawera Section started in January with a display by N. P. members, and in February, Stratford section started with a similar display. Sales on sheets are excellent, but more sheets wanted. Secretary, Mr. Fred B. Butler, 184 Gill-street, New Plymouth.

QUEENSLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of the Queensland Philatelic Society was held on Wednesday, 24th February, when there was a large attendance of members under the chairmanship of Mr. S. H. Sheard.

Matters of routine occupied part of the evening, one new member being accepted in the person of Mr. A. J. Vella, and the resignation of Dr. Sarah McConnell being accepted with regret.

A visitor to the Society, Mr. L. W. Deafloe, of the Hobbies Club, Toowoomba, was welcomed by the President, who also welcomed Mr. G. L. Hulbert, who was able to be present for the first time. Mr. J. E. Christoe, on behalf of the Society, tendered to Miss White, who was leaving for an extended tour of the East, en route to England for the Coronation, the best wishes of the Society for a happy holiday and a safe return. Miss White briefly responded.

Mr. S. H. Hosking displayed a very fine collection of Commonwealth stamps, showing various varieties and shades in blocks, strips and pairs, finely mounted and annotated. These were of much interest and were enjoyed by all present, Mr. Barlow expressing the appreciation of members.

For the next meeting on March 24, the displays will be by beginners and all who have not displayed are asked to bring stamps. A sale by tender will also be conducted.

AUCKLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Monthly general meeting held in Empire Buildings, Swanston-street, Auckland, C.I., on Wednesday, February 17, 1937.

The President, Mr. G. H. Hughes, occupied the chair, and there was a total attendance of 17 members and 2 visitors.

One application for membership was received and referred to the Committee. Exchange sales were conducted by the Chairman and realised £2/9/4.

The Chairman reported that the question of holding a Philatelic Exhibition in Auckland had been thoroughly discussed by the Committee. For business reasons the members of the Committee were not in a position to give the time necessary for the preparation and holding of a successful exhibition, and were therefore reluctantly compelled to shelve the proposal. The Chairman pointed out that if a special Exhibition Committee could be formed, excluding members of the ordinary Committee, the proposal might still be carried out.

Mr. A. Blincoe provided the display of the evening. This consisted of a wide selection of German

issues. The neatness and arrangement of the mounting was an outstanding feature of the sheets passed round, and the large proportion of very fine copies included in the display was also commented on. In moving a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Blincoe, Mr. Brown suggested that the high standard of mounting was one which other members might well follow.

THE TASMANIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of the Tasmanian Philatelic Society was held at the Trades Hall, Hobart, on Tuesday, March 2, 1937, at 8 p.m. The President (the Rev. E. W. Smith), was in the chair.

The Exchange Superintendent reported the issue of a new exchange book, No. 207, valued at £32/10/11, to which six members had contributed 73 sheets.

A donation to the Library of a copy of the 1937 edition of Ackland's catalogue of Postage Stamps was received from the publisher.

Mr. J. Englander, of St. Kilda, Victoria, was elected a member of the Society, while the resignation of Professor T. Hytten was accepted.

The displays for the evening were provided by Dr. Joseph Pearson, Director of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and Mr. Rex. Allison, of H.M.A.S. "Canberra." A collection of the postage stamps of Ceylon, obtained during his residence in the island as Director of the Colombo Museum, was exhibited by Dr. Pearson, all issues of this interesting colony, from the early pence issues to those of more recent date, being well represented.

The comprehensive and detailed record of the philatelic aspect of the Melbourne Centenary Air Race, shown by Mr. Allison, included covers carried between London and Australia by the following competitors and in all cases these bore the signatures of the pilots concerned:—Scott and Campbell-Black, Parmentier and Moll, Turner and Pangborn, Waller and Jones, McGregor and Walker, Melrose, Brook, Hansen and Jenson, Hewitt and Kay, Hill and Davies, Woods and Bennett (crashed in Syria), Shaw (crashed in Persia), Wright and Polando (crashed in Persia), and Miss J. Cochrane, who crashed in Roumania. On their return flights from Australia, many of these aviators carried small mails and covers to Holland by the K.L.M. liner "Uiver" from Melbourne, etc., are included. Other return covers are:—Australia-England by Waller and Jones and by Brook, and Australia-Denmark by Hansen and Jenson—all signed.

This collection, besides containing a number of autographed photographs of the competing aviators and their planes, gains an added interest by the inclusion of a great amount of documentary evidence appertaining to the mails carried on this epic race. Letters from Asjes and Geysendorffer, Bennett, Molison, Parer and Stodart make clear that no private mails were carried in the race by them.

Mr. Allison has, besides the original cheques paid to the backers of the winning pilots, a bronze replica of the gold medal presented to each competitor, and it is interesting to note that the only two replicas in existence of this medal are at present in Tasmania, the one in the possession of Mr. Allison and the other presented to the Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston.

Also shown was the original handstamp used to impress the date of the arrival in Melbourne on all official mail carried by the Royal Dutch Airways liner "Uiver" to their representatives in Sydney.

Both displays proved to be of great interest to the members present and a vote of thanks to the exhibitors, moved by the President and seconded by the Life Honorary President (Mr. P. Malone), was carried by acclamation.

At the meeting to be held on April 27, the syllabus item is to be a Competition arranged by the Honorary Secretary.

THE WESTERN SUBURBS PHILATELIC SOCIETY (N.S.W.).

The Society held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 23, with a very pleasing attendance of members and visitors, which is rapidly growing.

The display, which was given by Mr. Frost, was very interesting to all. Stamps from Mr. Frost's collection are always studied with great interest.