

The Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania, Inc.

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Forthcoming Annual Meetings:

2013 ANNUAL MEETING: Melbourne, Australia

2014 ANNUAL MEETING: St. Louis STAMP EXPO

2015 ANNUAL MEETING: Chicagopex, Chicago, IL

**2016 ANNUAL MEETING: FIP International, New York
2017 TBA**

President's Message

Dear Members:

There is a lot to report about.

1. **Melbourne 2013.** If you were ever thinking of going overseas on a vacation, why not tie it in with this stamp show? North American collectors will see a range of material that is different to what they see in North America. More importantly, material that you might think is obscure here, many people are conversant with Down Under, and it makes for great discussions and a great overall learning experience.

We have a joint meeting with the British Society of Australian Philatelists on Saturday 11 May 2013 from 1400 to 1600 Meeting Room 1. I expect to have other lectures, meals etc during the show — but these are still in the works and not available at press time.

2. **The Best Article of 2012.** We have introduced an annual competition to select the best article published in *The Informer* the previous year — see page 22 at left. While the articles for 2012 are set, those for 2013 have yet to be written, and because the Editor is not eligible, everyone else should be thinking of and writing an article for 2013.

3. **Regional Meetings.** We are encouraging regional meetings again. We have permission to hold monthly meetings on the second Thursday of every month at the Collectors Club in New York. The first one was expected to be Nov 8, but due to transportation and shelter issues following Hurricane Sandy it was postponed a month. If you think you would like to arrange a meeting in your region, let me know.

We will announce regional meetings in *The Informer* if you organize them. The Secretary can provide labels and/or email addresses for specific locations.

4. **A Hurricane Sandy Update.** I believe that all of our Northeast USA members are safe. Most had tree damage and a few have had houses take a direct hit from trees. Most were without power for more than a week, and then fuel was very hard to find for several more weeks. Personally, I have a view overlooking the Hudson towards the Palisades in New Jersey. We watched all the transformers blow out in New Jersey, one by one, over a two hour period. Some three hundred plus until there were no lights left. A grotesque fireworks display. There is a new normal here which we are all getting used to. Infrastructure planning needs to be rethought to mitigate the risks, but that is a different article.

See you soon in Melbourne,

Steve Zirinsky