



## COLLECTING THINGS

**‘COLLECTING THINGS CAN  
BE GREAT FUN.**

**“IT COULD BE BLUE  
THINGS OR LEAVES OR  
LITTLE PEBBLES ...  
PUT THEM IN JARS. I’VE  
ALWAYS LOVED MAKING  
COLLECTIONS ...”**

Andy Griffiths, author of the Treehouse series, (Age,  
Saturday 11 April 2020)

Many people love collecting things.  
Here are the stories behind  
three fabulous collections.



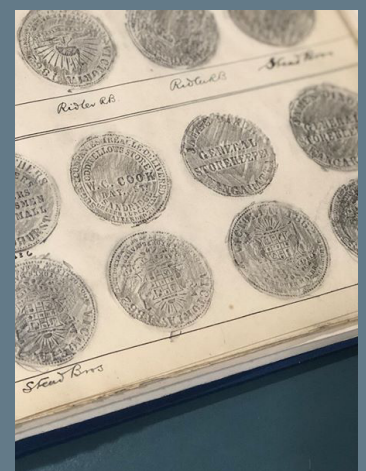
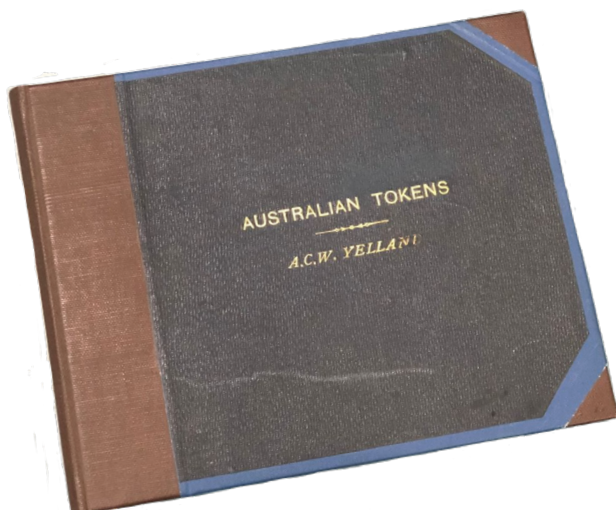
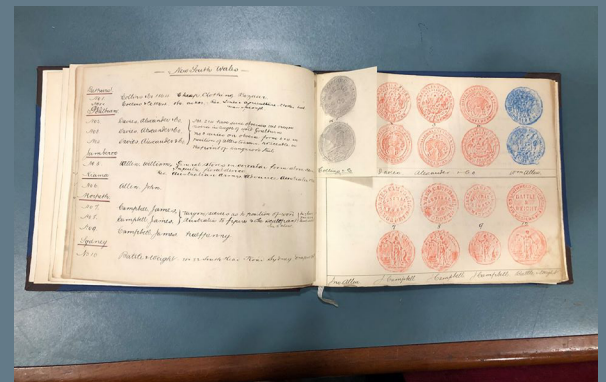
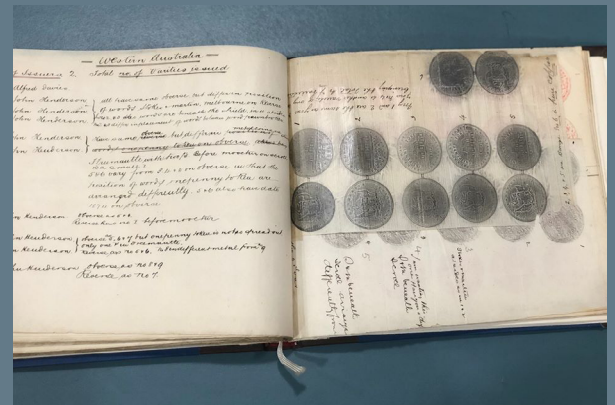
Pearl's (4) shell collection

# TOKENS

Many years ago tokens were used in place of cash and one of the best collections of early Victorian tokens and coins was made by Dr Alfred Yelland of North Fitzroy.

When Dr Yelland died in 1926, the Herald newspaper (21 September 1926) wrote of him as a 'student of numismatics' (the study or collection of coins) and reported that he had an 'extensive collection of rare and valuable coins.'

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria has a book of his tokens and coin rubbings in its Manuscripts Collection. You can see images of some of the pages here.



# The joy of

# collecting

# Stamps

John R writes:

Stamp collecting has been a lifelong hobby for me. It began back in 1947 when my dad found a very expensive camera on the seat of a bus he had travelled on. He did hand it in to the local bus depot but after no one claimed it he brought it home.

Not having a clue how to use it, the son of a friend of his was very interested in photography but had no money to buy it. His father put up some cash, but as part of the deal he gave me an album filled mainly with early USA postage stamps.

Over the next 73 years my collection has grown considerably and has been a constant form of relaxation and comfort in times of stress. It has also enabled me to assist some friends in disposing of some rather large collections, as well as donating a considerable number of duplicates to various charities.

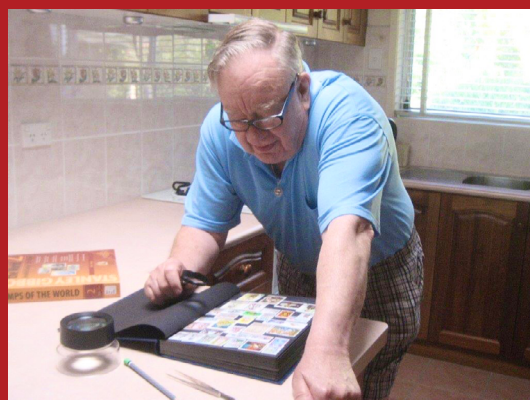
I was particular proud when, after having sorted through a huge collection of mainly Australian stamps on paper,

I put together a world collection, housed in 10 large albums.

The wife of a couple we met on one of our across Australia travels was suffering with Parkinson's Disease. The husband was a bank manager and collected stamps torn off the envelopes of all the letters the bank received over a 30 year period. When they moved into a retirement village they gave me two huge boxes of stamps and after selling the collection I was able to donate about \$700 to Parkinson's Australia.

During these last few months my hobby has been a source of immense pleasure and I have discovered some that I had either bought, been given or swapped with other collectors and completely forgotten about.

Many people cannot see the joy of stamp collecting, as to them they are just pieces of paper with often not very interesting pictures printed on them. They have no idea that each stamp has its own history and that there has always been a reason for having them printed.



**John R.  
RHSV volunteer  
April 2020**





Cathy B writes:

Both my Mum and Grandma had button jars - I guess everyone's Mum or Grandma did! My sister and I used to get the jar out and play with the buttons when we were little - counting, sorting and asking questions about where the pretty ones had come from. The photo of my Mum's button jar has buttons collected from the 1940s to the late 1960s.

When my Mum (Norrie Mitchell) retired in the early 1990s she joined the ACT Textile Arts Association in Canberra (TASDA). Here she gave vent to her creative streak and pursued many passions - embroidery, silk painting, tassel making, felting to name a few.

Every year the members of TASDA gave demonstrations of various techniques and skills at the Canberra Show and every year my Mum was one of the demonstrators.

One year over 30 years ago she was demonstrating how to make button necklaces and a man asked her if she would

like the collection of his recently deceased mother who had collected the buttons over

the years and, in her retirement, sewed them onto panels so that she could look at and enjoy them.

My Mum visited the man and came away with boxes of buttons sewn onto material panels - over 5,000 buttons in all! She used to display them by hanging them over her doors. This always gave the family something to admire and talk about - art deco buttons, buttons from the 40s, 50s and 60s. We regard ourselves as custodians of the collection which is now in the safe hands of my niece Gretel and the original button jar is held for safe keeping by sister Louise.

Cathy B., RHSV volunteer



You see here photos of some of the collection, my Mum's explanation of how she came to own the collection and her original button jar.



### A TREASURY OF BUTTONS

This selection of buttons is part of a collection gathered by Mrs Gladys Greig of the Moruya area. Gladys was a well-known dressmaker in the district and collected buttons over many years. Friends helped her to save buttons and there are over 5,000 in the collection. In her later life Gladys sorted and sewed the buttons onto fabric as you see here.

I am grateful to her son Don for giving me the collection.

I am also grateful to TASDA for the opportunity to display them and in a small way pay homage to Gladys

I intend to research and catalogue the collection for future generations.

NORRIE MITCHELL

\* Don gave the buttons to Norrie after he saw her demonstrating button necklaces at the Canberra Show and recognised that they would be going to a good home.

