



COFEX23

COFEX23 in conjunction with the annual interclub competition and the 18th national literature exhibition was held in Christchurch at the Te Hāpua Centre, Halswell on Saturday 18th November.

Setup of the exhibition frames began at 8.00am on the Thursday morning with exhibits starting to be mounted once the first row of frames was in position. With many people on hand to help with the setup it didn't take long to get

all the exhibits mounted.

There were 83 exhibits, including 10 teams of 5 competing in the interclub competition which was judged by our excellent team of judges plus five display only exhibits. Judging began just after lunch and by a Friday lunchtime was almost completed. There was a wide variety of subjects covered with the exhibits that made for an excellent overall display and provided a few challenges for our judging teams. There was some very strong competition for the interclub title which was claimed by the Wellington Philatelic Society. The best overall inter-club exhibit was Ian Bridle's exhibit of '1946 One Year of Independence' issue of Java, Indonesia with the best one frame COFEX exhibit going to Alan Kilpatrick for his exhibit on the NZ Chalon Heads. The 4d Rose and 4d Yellow.



At 9.00am on Saturday morning we opened the doors to the public with a steady stream of people coming in to view the exhibits and visit the stand holders at our collectables fair. Thirteen stand holders from around the South Island attended and with plenty of visitors eyeing the material they had for sale. Visitors came from all around the country with exhibitors visiting from as far north as Keri Keri and as far south as Dunedin.

At 10.00am there was an exhibitor's feedback session where exhibitors could talk directly with the judges that judged their exhibit. A number of exhibitors took advantage of the opportunity to talk with the judges including one exhibitor who spoke to the judges via a video call. These sessions are always popular with exhibitors and are a good chance to get advice and how to improve your exhibit.



The books from the literature exhibition were displayed on the stage behind the Christchurch Philatelic Society's stand. There was plenty of interesting books to peruse for the keen philatelic literature enthusiast plus plenty of philatelic books for sale on the Philatelic Society's stand.

Personalised stamps issued for the exhibition were available as you entered the venue. These were proving popular with the many personalised stamp collectors.



Visitor numbers remained steady for most of the day until the doors closed at 3.30pm. Exhibits were dismantled in an orderly fashion, then the frames were dismantled. Due to a well organised team and plenty of helpers everything was packed up and cleared out by 5.30pm. There is a lot of hard work that goes into organising these events but I think it is safe to say that another highly successful exhibition was held in Christchurch.