



## **The First Australian Bridge Postmark**

The 68th ANC (Australian National Bridge Championships) has been privileged to have a unique recognition of the event by Australia Post creating a special commemorative postmarker which will be used at Fremantle Post Office for the duration of the event. (See illustration)

This is the first time bridge has had any special recognition by Australia Post and The Bridge Association of Western Australia is delighted that this very popular game will be promoted in this manner.

The Championships which are being held at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July are rotated throughout the Australian States, so it will be 2015 before we see it back in Perth.

Bridge has had very little recognition in any way by postal authorities around the world for what we all know is one of the most supported games played anywhere. A few stamps have been issued in the last 50 or so years and a couple of official postcards as well as the occasional postmarker. A display of these will be in the hotel foyer by the Hospitality Desk and the lot occupies just two and a bit pages only.

Players will be able to purchase souvenir postcards and ANC envelopes which can be (self) addressed and left with the desk staff who will courier it to Fremantle Post Office for the special cancellation.

This postmarker will be also available through Australia Post's special philatelic outlets and it is hoped that those very numerous collectors of postmarks (as well as stamps) – yes, that aspect of philately is very popular - will become aware of bridge and its popularity in Australia.

The ANC Committee are sure that this first ever recognition of Bridge by Australia Post will be well supported by players - after all it will be an inexpensive memento of an enjoyable fortnight of bridge.