

THE MELBOURNE PHONECARD CLUB

INCORPORATED

PO BOX 177, NORTHCOTE, VICTORIA, 3070, AUSTRALIA

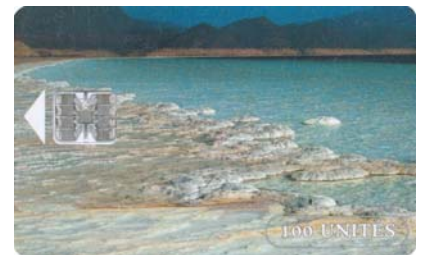
NEWSLETTER

Edition No. 251 October 2013

The Melbourne Phonecard Club Inc. meets on the first Saturday of every month commencing at 1.00pm at the Community Centre, 64 Clyde Street, Thornbury (Melway map reference 30 J6). Visitors are most welcome. The next meeting will be held on **Saturday, 2nd November 2013.**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK (postmaster@melbournephonecardclub.org.au)

Last month I deliberately made the mystery card easy in that I wanted to stay with an African theme. The county of Djibouti is clearly printed on the card. Who or what is a "Djibouti" you may ask? This country gained independence from France in 1977. It was formerly known as the French Territory of the Afars and the Issas. Prior to 1967 it was know as French Somaliland. The official language of the country is jointly French and Arabic. These incidentally are the languages seen on the card. The French text translates as follows:



100 UNITES = 100 UNITS
en cas d\'incident, = in case of incident,

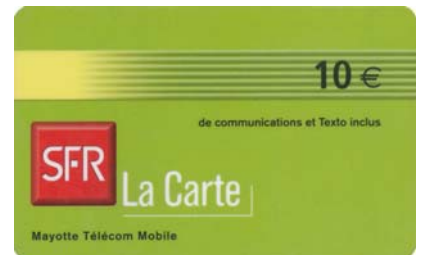
adressez-vous à l\'OPT DJIBOUTI = please contact the OPT DJIBOUTI

Cette carte ne peut être vendue que sous emballage scellé = this card shall be sold as sealed wrapping

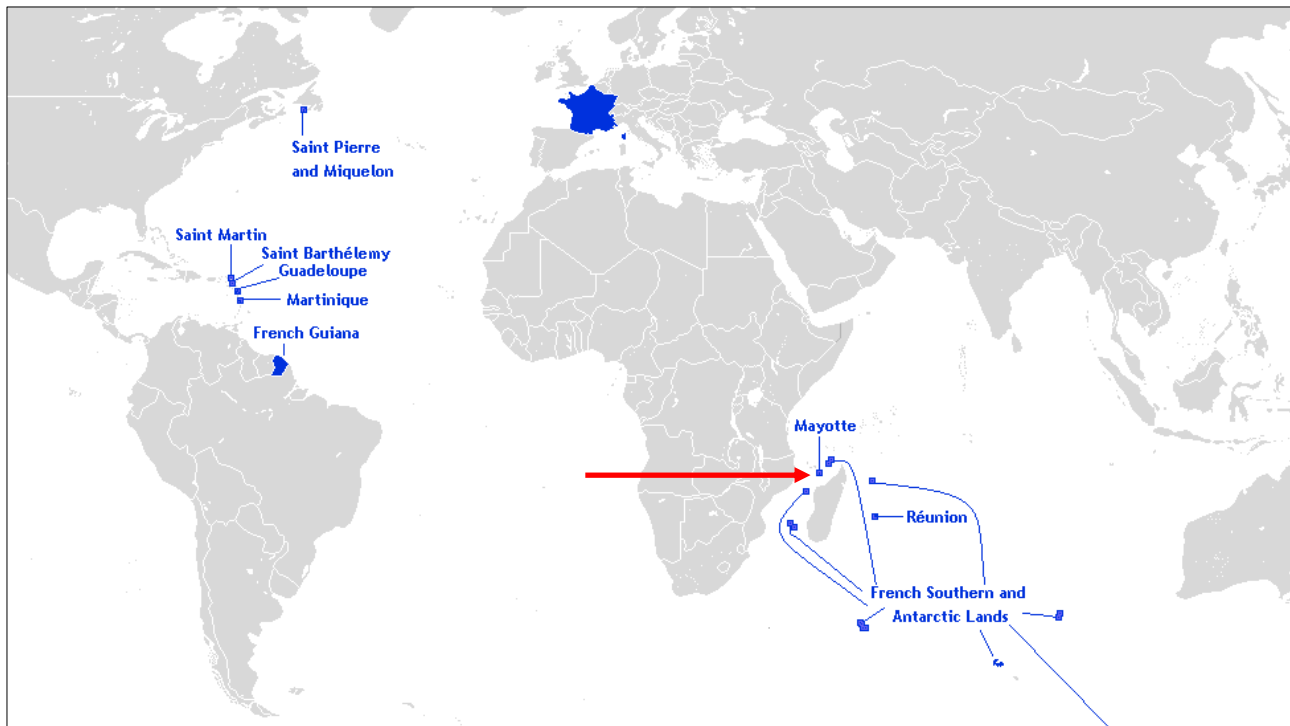
The above translation was obtained using our trusty Google translator which can be found at: <http://translate.google.com/>

If we search for "OPT DJIBOUTI", we find that this is the office of Posts & Telecommunications for Djibouti. The Colnect website has our card at: http://colnect.com/en/phonecards/phonecard/66385-Salt_Lake-Office_des_Postes_et_T%C3%A9l%C3%A9communications_OPT-Djibouti

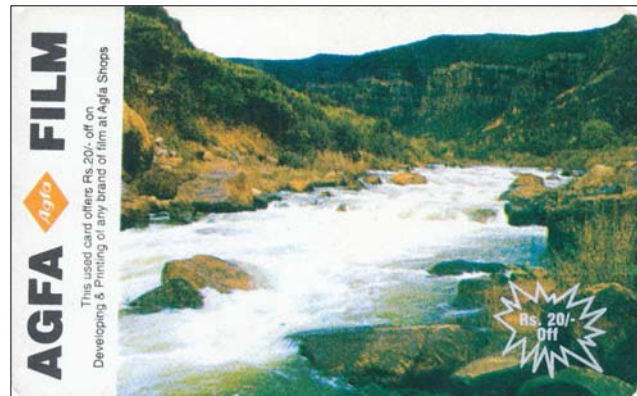
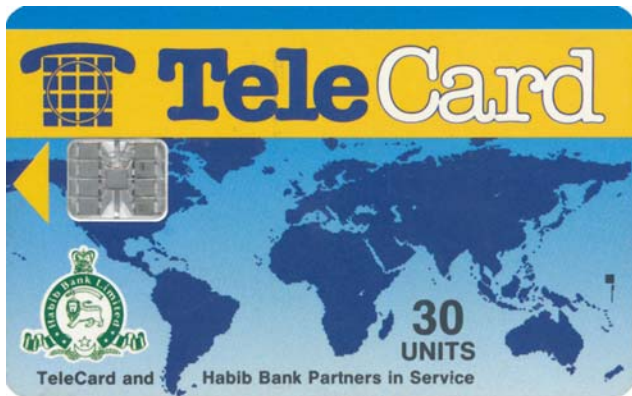
All of the above is leading us to cards from parts of the world that are deemed to be French Overseas Departments. Currently these include French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte and Réunion. Pictured to the right is a card that a club member recently gave me to identify. This card had me stumped until I realised that it is a French Overseas Department and is actually catalogued under the country heading of France in the Colnect website. It can be found at:



http://colnect.com/en/phonecards/phonecard/462592-Yellow_Band_Without_Value_In_Franc-SFR_-_definitive_cards_Refill_cards-SFR_Mayotte-France. The next page shows a map of current and former French Overseas Departments. Of the current 5 "overseas departments", only Réunion is catalogued separately by the Colnect Website. The Mayotte archipelago lies in the Mozambique channel with the main island measuring only 39km x 22km. It is NOT part of the Comoros Islands.



Please find below next month's mystery card to test your skills with.



MISCELLANEOUS



CSO50

Pictured above are some cards of interest. The “DAYPASS” is part of the selective free travel scheme for holders of a Senior’s card. Holders are firstly sent a letter once a year with two to four travel vouchers. They fill these out and exchange them for the “DAYPASS” at a station. The staff member issues the punched ticket with the date of travel. The Starbucks card was provided by Brian Koop and is the latest issue for Hawaii (USA). Card CSO50 is provided to employees of Coles for discounted purchases.

Please send all electronic correspondence to the editor at postmaster@melbournephonecardclub.org.au