

Newsletter

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stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/newsletter

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Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to download my first newsletter. This newsletter is a bumper issue covering many recent issues, as well as information on future issues, a proposed rate rise and reprints.

As a collector of Australian stamps for over 25 years, I have seen how complicated modern Australian issues have become. As a result I started my website to give information on all the stamps released by Australia Post. As each issue is released, I plan to add information to my website, and as a newsletter subscriber I will inform you about these updates.

I am always willing to answer questions about modern Australian stamps. Feel free to e-mail me at stamps@chrisdehaer.com.au

Until next time,
Chris de Haer

Proposed Postage Rate Increases

Australia Post has again asked the ACCC for approval to increase domestic postal rates. The ACCC is currently seeking public comment, and will release its final decision on 28 May 2010. If approved the new rates take effect on 28 June 2010.

Rate	Current	Proposed
Small letter rate within Australia	55c	60c
Seasonal cards	50c	55c
Large letter rate (up to 125 grams)	\$1.10	\$1.20
Large seasonal cards	\$1.00	\$1.10
Large letter rate (over 125 up to 250 grams)	\$1.65	\$1.80
Large letter rate (over 250 up to 500 grams)	\$2.75	\$3.00

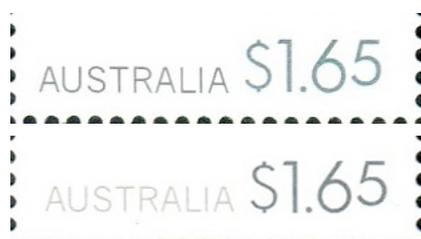
I believe stamps for the new rates have already been printed. It is also possible that international rates may increase at the same time (prepaid postcards will go from \$1.50 to \$1.60). More information can be found at on the [ACCC's website](http://www.accc.gov.au).

Christmas Island Lunar New Year Update

12 January 2010

Welcome to the Year of the Tiger, and 'Congratulations and be Prosperous' (恭喜發財).

When I examined the prestige booklet I noticed the stamps in the first pane were significantly different to the sheet versions. The 20c Tiger and Rabbit stamps are a lighter shade of grey, and the colour of 'AUSTRALIA' on the \$1.65 is in light grey compared to dark grey on the sheet stamp.



The \$1.65 value from the sheet (top) and booklet (bottom)

Having examined several other booklets, it appears this colour variety is consistent. If you specialise in Christmas Island you'll need to split a prestige booklet up for these colour varieties. I do have some \$1.65 stamps from the booklet for sale – I will list these in the next newsletter.



I also finally received my Lunar New Year personalised sheet. The release date was 12 February 2010 (the first day of the festival), but mail orders were not sent out until after the festival. The sheetlet of nine is the only source of the 55c stamp with a tab.

More information on this issue can be found at: <http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201001.shtml>

Australia Legends 2010: Novelists

March 2010



To commemorate the retirement of Australia Post's Managing Director, Mr Graeme John, Australia Post produced a special folder containing a facsimile of the final art proof and an imperforate miniature sheet. Graeme John took a keen interest in Australia Post's philatelic programme, and initiated the Australian Legends award in 1997.

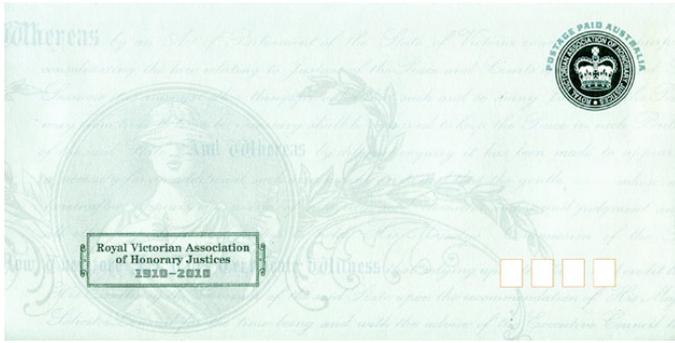
Collectors might notice that the date on the final art is 22 December 2009. Stamp production often takes several months, but the original Legends issue was printed, perforated and distributed in less than a month (and that's not taking into account the Christmas-New Year break!). Australia Post had to leave printing of this issue to the last moment, as it was still awaiting the ACCC's decision on the 60c rate. McKellar Renown printed both the original Legends issue and the imperforate miniature sheet.

There has also been discussion about the issue date for this miniature sheet. The pack was available from the Philatelic Bureau on 11 March, and at the Canberra Stamp Show on 13 March. D.M. has been reported on Stampboards that Sydney GPO placed the pack on sale on 5 March. My website has been adjusted to show 5 March as the earliest release date, and noted the date the Philatelic Bureau had stock.

More information on this issue can be found at: <http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201002.shtml>

Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

9 February 2010



Celebrating the centenary of Victoria's peak justice body, this prepaid envelope was unavailable in Western Australia for over a month (I finally resorted to buying mine from the Philatelic Bureau!). If you live in a state other than Victoria, let me know when this envelope was available in your state.

More information on this issue can be found at:
<http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201003.shtml>

Winter Olympic Gold Medallist

25 February and 3 March 2010

Australia Post celebrated Australia's two gold medal wins at the Vancouver Winter Olympics with two 55c stamps, issued in small sheets of 10 stamps. Images and technical details for both stamps are on my website at:

<http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201004.shtml>



Bicentenary of Governor Macquarie

16 February 2010

Celebrating the bicentenary of Macquarie's governorship of New South Wales, these four stamps celebrate his enlightened policies and buildings erected to improve the physical amenity of all colonists.



The sheet stamps were issued in blocks of four within sheets of 50, with the gutter featuring a scene of Sydney Harbour.

The stamps were also issued in individual blocks of four within a prestige booklet. Under UV light these stamps have a duller reaction (similar to the differences seen with the Favourite Stamps issue in 2009), and the Macquarie, Visionary

and Builder stamps show distinct shade differences. Images of the shade differences can be found at:

<http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201005.shtml>

250 imperforate prestige booklets were also available exclusively at the Canberra Stamp Show (12-14 March). I have some imperforate sets for sale – more details in the next newsletter.

The Macquarie stamp from the Canberra miniature sheet is also new, with much more grey in the background image.

This stamp and coin cover for this issue has also caused much excitement. The Philatelic Bureau was sold out within hours, as were many post offices!

Limited to just 15,000 covers, the cover is in demand by coin collectors as it is the only source of the \$1 Macquarie coin. While I doubt you'll find any Macquarie coin covers at your local post office, if you do I suggest you buy what they have. Previous covers which are the only source of a coin, such as the 2000 Victoria Cross and 2003 Coronation covers, now fetch prices upwards of \$250.



Another Macquarie related issue will be released on 22 June, when the bicentenary of the discovery of Macquarie Island is celebrated. Part of Australia's Antarctic Territory, the island was named in honour of Governor Macquarie.

Adelaide Fringe Festival Sheet

18 February 2010

The fiftieth Adelaide Fringe Festival was held from 19 February-14 March 2010, and to celebrate Australia Post released a Souvenir Stamp Sheet on 18 February. This sheet contains three new specialist items: a Sparklers stamp with a tab on the right; a vertical strip of three Sparklers stamps and; a sheetlet of nine stamps.

More information on this issue can be found at:
<http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201008b.shtml>

Centenary of Australian Coinage

23 February 2010

2010 marks the centenary of Australia's first coins. In a case of déjà vu, this issue has many similarities to the 150th Anniversary of Australia's First Coin issue in 2005:

- The two stamps represent the small letter and highest large letter rates.
- The 2005 and 2010 miniature sheets are the same size.
- Both sheets include an se-tenant pair of stamps with embellished coins.

Miniature sheet first day covers appear to have been postmarked twice by mistake – once at the base, and again in the same position as the sheet stamp first day cover!



More information on this issue can be found at:
<http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201006.shtml>

AFL Packs

From 25 February 2010

Australia Post has again issued a sheetlet pack for each AFL team. There's no sign of the NRL packs, although the 2009 packs have been withdrawn from sale.

More information on the packs can be found at:
<http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201008a.shtml>

Centenary of Powered Flight in Australia

9 March 2010



In 2003 many countries celebrated the centenary of the Wright Brother's first flight. Australia Post waited until 2010 though, marking the centenary the first *successful* powered flight in Australia.

The three values (55c, \$1.45 and \$2.10) were released in gummed sheets, with the \$1.45 and \$2.10 also released in self-adhesive booklets of five stamps.

The 55c and \$1.45 gummed stamps were also issued in the Canberra Stamp Show miniature sheet. These stamps differ from the sheet stamps with thinner text. An illustration of the difference is given on my website.

I received an e-mail from M.S. advising me that the coin cover was not mentioned in the product listing or on the order form. Australia Post has informed me that the coin cover was omitted in error, and collectors could still order the coin cover – the selling price is \$14.95.

Australia Post also produced a postcard (limited to 1,785) which was carried on a reenactment flight on 9 March. Oddly, the postcard was not sent out from the Philatelic Bureau until 9 April!

More information on this issue can be found at:
<http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201007.shtml>

Canberra Stamp Show

12 March 2010

I was lucky enough to attend Canberra Stamp Show last month. My congratulations go to the organisers for a great show. Apart from the imperforate Macquarie booklet, a miniature sheet was issued for the show. Containing a unique block of four, the Macquarie and two Flight stamps are different to the regular sheet stamps (see above).

More information on this issue can be found at:
<http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201008.shtml>

Come to Show

23 March 2010



Celebrating Australia's agricultural shows, this rather pleasing issue consists of an se-tenant strip of five stamps, a miniature

sheet, and two booklets – a gummed prestige booklet and self-adhesive booklet. The only unusual item in this issue is the last pane in the prestige booklet which features a page number, all the other panes are without a number!

More information can be found at:
<http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201009.shtml>

VIEW Club Prepaid Envelopes

23 March 2010

I have to admit to not having heard of VIEW Clubs before researching the issue. VIEW Clubs were formed as an alternative to Rotary, Apex, Lions and other service clubs which, at the time, didn't allow women to join.

The envelope celebrates the 50th anniversary of VIEW Clubs.

More information can be found at:
<http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201010.shtml>

Mary MacKillop and Ipswich Prepaid Envelopes

6 April 2010

I was surprised to find out that two prepaid envelopes were going to be released on 6 April, without informing collectors through the *Stamp Bulletin*.

The two envelopes celebrate the upcoming canonisation of Mary McKillop and the 150th Anniversary of Ipswich.

Information for both of these envelopes is on my website at:
<http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201011a.shtml>
<http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201011b.shtml>

Queen's Birthday

6 April 2010

It is pleasing to see a return a single stamp for the Queen's Birthday, and this year's issue is rather attractive.

More information on this issue can be found at:

<http://stamps.chrisdehaer.com.au/issues/201011.shtml>



Upcoming Issues: May-June Issues

The following pages have been added to my website covering May-June Issues:

- 7 May - Colonial Heritage: Empire ([visit](#))
- 7 May - Great Railway Journeys ([visit](#))
- 8 May - London Stamp Show ([visit](#))
- 18 May - Shanghai World Expo 2010 ([visit](#))
- 25 May - World Heritage Sites ([visit](#))
- 15 June - Emergency Services ([visit](#))
- 28 June - Lions Clubs PPE ([visit](#))
- 22 June - Cocos (Keeling) Islands Flowers ([visit](#))
- 22 June - AAT Macquarie Island ([visit](#))
- 29 June - Adopted and Adored ([visit](#))

It appears that May and June will be a very busy (and expensive) time. Don't forget we also have a possible rate rise too! Images have been included on Colonial Heritage, Railway Journeys and Emergency Services pages. The \$5 Colonial Heritage miniature sheet is an absolute beauty.



Upcoming Issue: Christmas Island WWF Issue

10 July 2010

The official WWF website mentions that an issue featuring Andrew's Frigatebird will be released on 10 July. Collectors of Christmas Island will know that Andrew's Frigatebird is also known as the Christmas Island Frigatebird, and last appeared on the Christmas Island's 2009 Christmas stamp (shown right). A page about this issue will be added when the issue date is confirmed.



Kangaroo and Koala Reprint Update

Collectors of reprints will know the last Koala Count list appeared in *Stamp Bulletin* 300. Can we assume that no further reprints have been made? Unfortunately, no. At my local post office I found a 3 koala reprint of the 5c Butterfly definitive, and G.L.F. has advised me that a 4 koala reprint of 10c Butterfly definitive exists. Given this it would be safe to assume further unpublicised reprints exist.

A look at Australia Post's webshop shows the following 'current' reprints out of stock:

- 5c Red Lacewing Butterfly (2 koalas)
- 10c Blue-banded Eggfly (3 koalas)
- 20c Saltwater Crocodile (2 kangaroos)
- 30c Crocodile (1 kangaroo, 1 koala)
- 35c Echidna (1 kangaroo, 2 koalas)
- \$1.45 Blue Orchid (4 koalas)
- \$1.50 Thorny Devil (3 koalas)
- \$2 Donkey Orchid (2 koalas)
- \$5 Kangaroo Paw (2 koalas)
- 10c Maria Island (International) (1 koala)
- 50c Walker Flats (International) (1 koala)
- \$1.25 Common Wombat (International) (1 koala)
- \$1.35 Grose River Gorge (International) (1 koala)
- \$10 Devils Marbles (International) (1 kangaroo)

Of these, it is unlikely that the \$1.45 Blue Orchid and \$1.35 Grose River Gorge stamps will be reprinted – these stamps no longer serve any current postal rates. The others though are still needed. Despite low usage, Australia Post must keep a range of values in stock for making up rates, and for parcel rates; and with a possible rate rise on 28 June, stocks of the 5c and 10c stamps will be needed. Additional 25c stamps may also be needed (\$2.75 to \$3.00). It would also be nice to see a 15c stamp introduced for the \$1.65 to \$1.80 rate change.

When I have clarified the current situation, I will report on the 5c and 10c Butterfly reprints, and any others in the pipeline.

Western Australian Events

I am a strong supporter of WA stamp clubs and events, and are happy to promote events on my website.

For those in Western Australia, Rockingham and Kwinana Districts members (including myself) will have displays on the letters E and X on 20 April. More information on Rockingham's programme is on my [website](#).

Website Updates

The following pages have been updated:

- Kokoda ([visit](#))

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter is due for release next week, and will cover the Kokoda Issue, reprints, along with more information on May-June's issues.

There's a Surprise Coming...

In the coming weeks this newsletter will include something every collector of modern Australian stamps will find invaluable.

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