

STAMP NEWS AUSTRALASIA

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Australian Stamp Variations

Details of the main variations in recent stamp issues

Double-embossed Coins

I don't normally report on varieties, but occasionally I am attracted to some of the more obvious errors. Ernie Blake, a fellow member of the Waverley Philatelic Society in Melbourne, showed me a Centenary of Coins minisheet that had been embossed twice. It was quite distinct, particularly if you looked at the back. On the front of the 55c stamp the embossed word "shilling" appeared in the space between the original word and the emu. Chris de Haer reported on www.stampboards.com that he has some of these minisheets with single embossing misplaced 2mm vertically.

Grey Macquarie

Chris also pointed out that the Macquarie stamp in the recent Canberra Stamp Show multiple issue minisheet (see *May Stamp News*) has a grey background. The original sheet stamp and imperforate variations were brown. The Variations Statistics table below has been adjusted to take into account this extra variation.



Birthday

This year's Queen's Birthday stamps depict a picture taken outside St. Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney in 2006. Only two variations in this issue: A sheetlet of 10 gummed stamps and 10 self-adhesive stamps in a booklet. Single gummed stamps were available at some Post Shops.



Queen's Birthday Stamp Issue No. 8		
FDI: 6 April 2010		
Stamps and Variations	Variations	
Gummed stamps: (Perf = 14.6 x 13.9)	No.	Cost
55c Queen Elizabeth		
Sheetlet of 10 stamps	1	\$5.50
Self-adhesive stamps: (Die-cut simulated perf = 11.5 x 11.2)		
55c Queen Elizabeth	1	\$5.50
Total number of stamps = 2	2	\$11.00

Kokoda

Five designs celebrating the World War II Kokoda Campaign of 1942 were issued jointly with Papua New Guinea on 20th April. The variations in this issue are very similar to the Come to the Show issue in March. The gummed stamps were available in a se-tenant strip of 4 x 55c stamps, a se-tenant strip of 4 x 55c & \$1.45c stamps, a block of 4 "Kokoda Today" stamps and 2 se-tenant blocks of 4 stamps. There were also 4 minisheets (3 of the minisheets with the blocks of 4 stamps were bound in the prestige booklet) and a gutter strip. The gutter contained 3 Pacific Medals and 2 Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels medallions. The stamps on the minisheets were a little darker than the sheet stamps. This was most noticeable on the \$1.45 stamps (pictured). I have listed the dark grey \$1.45 minisheet stamps as an image variation. The 55c self-adhesive variations were issued in a booklet of 10 and a roll of 100 stamps.

This is the second time this year an International



David Mallen



Post stamp (\$1.45 “Isurava Memorial”) and a domestic stamp have been “paired”. The \$1.45 stamp is on two of the minisheets: The separate minisheet with the se-tenant strip of \$1.45 & 4 x 55c stamps and the prestige booklet minisheet with the se-tenant block of 2 x \$1.45 & 2 x 55c “Kokoda Veterans” stamps. Note that the se-tenant strip of 5 can be used for \$3.45 International postage as it includes 20c GST. It may also be used for \$2.20 domestic postage. The total cost of all 15 variations was \$46.05. If you also collect stamps of the same design that are issued by another country – in this case, Papua New Guinea (PNG) – you will be separated from even more money. PNG stamps were available in a joint Stamp Pack and on a First Day Cover with printed postmarks.

Kokoda		
Stamp Issue No. 9 FDI: 20 April 2010		
Stamps and Variations	Variations	
Gummed stamps: (Perf = 14.6 x 13.9)	No.	Cost
55c Climbing Soldiers		
55c Wounded Soldiers and “Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels”		
55c Kokoda Veterans		
55c Kokoda Today		
\$1.45 Kokoda Isurava Memorial		
1 se-tenant strip of 4 stamps – 4 x 55c [sheet]	1	\$2.20
1 se-tenant strip of 5 stamps – 4 x 55c & \$1.45 [minisheet]	1	\$3.65
1 gutter strip of 10 x 55c stamps [sheet]	1	\$5.50
1 minisheet – 4 x 55c & \$1.45	1	\$3.65

3 blocks of 4 stamps [prestige booklet]		
2 x \$1.45 Isurava Memorial & 2 x 55c Veterans	3	\$10.95
2 x 55c Soldiers & 2 x 55c Wounded and “Angels”		
4 x 55c Kokoda Today		
3 ‘minisheets’ each containing a block of 4 stamps [prestige booklet]		
1 image colour variation: \$1.45 from minisheet (dark grey). (Sheet stamp is light grey) [2 minisheets contained this variation]	1	\$3.65
Self-adhesive stamps: (Die-cut simulated perf = 11.5 x 11.2)		
4 x 55c self-adhesive stamps [booklet & roll of 100]	4	\$5.50
Total number of stamps = 10	15	\$46.05

Variations Statistics : Jan – Apr 2010		
Statistic	No.	Cost
Issues	9	–
Designs	34	–
New stamps	114	\$71.15 FV
Variations	238	\$733.85
New 55c stamps	106	–
Average issue rate of 55c stamps	1 every 20 hours	

Footnote: The stamp information shown above is based on stamps and variations bought at my local Post Shop or from Philatelic Mail Order. This may differ from other Australia Post outlets. If you find any differences please let me know. Find out what decimal stamps Australia Post actually issued each year in my new 1966-2009 ASV Catalogue. More information at www.asv.net.au. FDI = First Day of Issue. OSD = On-sale Date. FV = Face Value.

Australian Stamp Variations
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Visit my website for details of new issues, updates and stamp variations for sale

