

# STAMP NEWS AUSTRALASIA

INCORPORATING THE AUSTRALIAN STAMP MONTHLY

May Edition 2009 Vol. 56 No. 5 \$8.95 AUD

NZ \$9.50 Canada \$11.00 US \$9.00 UK £5.50 Europe €7.00



## INDIGENOUS CULTURE

THE WORLD'S MOST EXCITING STAMP MAGAZINE

ISSN 1448-1014



# Australian Stamp Variations

## Details of the main variations in recent stamp issues

### Perforation Watch

With Australia Post using two different perforating machines for gummed stamps it is now almost impossible to know which stamps have been made with one or both perforations. Access to Australia Post's production records hasn't been forthcoming. I am keeping a list of each issue and the perforations found by me, Stamp News readers and Stampboards members. As a service to readers I can e-mail or post this Perforation Watch list to you. Please contact me (details below) if you wish to be sent this information. A copy is also on my website. (A complete list of the 53 perf variations and 61 imperf variations found in 2008 is in my latest ASV Catalogue.)

If you find a stamp with a perforation that is different from the one shown on the list or in my articles, please let me know and I shall update the list. Please send me a stamp, an image or a photograph of the new perforation. Please also indicate if you have access to mint stamps, as dealers and collectors of perforation variations may wish to buy these. This list will only benefit readers if I receive details of any perf variations that you find.

I am urgently seeking mint \$1.10 Tourist Precincts gummed stamps with perforation 14 x 13.7. If you do not have a perf gauge, this stamp has 16 holes on the vertical side. The 14 x 14.4 variation has 17 holes. Please check these in your collection and at your local post office.

### More FEOs

As I reported in March there were a number of sets of stamps released in 2008 with multiple issue dates. More stamps from the For Every Occasion (FEO) set were issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> March increasing the number of issue dates for this set to 6, which could be a record.

Previous 2008 issue dates for FEO variations were: 15<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> September; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> October. (See November & December 2008 and February 2009 *Stamp News*.)

This time 5 full-perf self-adhesive stamps from the set were issued in "normal" booklets and sold at face value. They are identical to the previous release and do not contain a 2009 year code. They



ASV Perforation Watch				
Australian Gummed Stamps : 2009				
Issue Date	Issue	Stamp Source	Orientation	Perforations
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Australian Legends of the Screen	Sheet (8 x 55c)	Portrait	14.6 x 13.9
		Minisheets from prestige booklets (8 x 55c)		
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	With Love	Sheets (3 x 55c)	Portrait	14.6 x 13.9
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Inventive Australia	Sheet (5 x 55c)	Portrait	14.6 x 13.9
		Minisheets from prestige booklet (5 x 55c)		13.9 x 13.9
		Separate minisheet (5 x 55c)		
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Earth Hour	Sheets (2 x 55c & \$2.05)	Portrait	14.6 x 13.9
25 <sup>th</sup> March	200 Years	Sheetlet (10 x 55c)	Portrait	14.6 x 13.9
		Special sheetlets in prestige booklet (10 x 55c)		14.6 x 13.9
				Imperforate

ASV = Australian Stamp Variations [www.users.bigpond.net.au/asv](http://www.users.bigpond.net.au/asv) [asv.cat@bigpond.net.au](mailto:asv.cat@bigpond.net.au)  
 Perforations are Horizontal x Vertical. Please let me know if you find any perforations that differ from those listed.



were previously issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> October 2008 in prestige booklets and hence cost about 10% above face value. It appears from Australia Post's Stamps website that the prestige booklets have been withdrawn although Mail Order still has them available.

For Every Occasion : Re-issue			
Variations*	<b>5</b>	Cost*	<b>\$33.00</b>
Issue Date	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2009		
Stamp Value & Design	55c Gold Rings 55c Baby Feet 55c Sparklers 55c Balloons \$1.10 Bridal Gown		
Perforations	Self-adhesive stamps: 11.5 x 11.2 (IDC simulated perforations)		
Self-adhesive stamps	4 x 55c \$1.10 (5 individual booklets)		
* Variations and cost will not be included in 2009 statistics as these stamps were issued previously in October 2008			

## Earth Hour

Earth Hour is an initiative of WWF-Australia, conceived to raise awareness of global warming. To advertise the turning off of electricity for one hour at 8.30pm on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 5 stamps were issued on 11<sup>th</sup> March. The two 55c gummed stamps were issued as a se-tenant pair. The two 55c self-adhesive stamps were issued in a booklet of 20 stamps. There was also an International Post \$2.05 gummed stamp.



Earth Hour			
Variations	<b>3</b>	Cost	<b>\$12.10</b>
Issue Date	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2009		
Stamp Value & Design	55c Lights Out – Possum 55c Switch Off – Owl \$2.05 Save Energy – Orangutan		
Perforations	Gummed stamps: 14.6 x 13.9 Self-adhesive stamps: 11.5 x 11.2 (IDC simulated perforations)		
Pair	2 x 55c se-tenant pair		
Self-adhesive stamps	2 x 55c (1 mixed booklet)		

## 2 to 700 Variations per Year

Two to seven hundred stamp variations per year in 200 years. What a marketing success! The first two variations appear to be colour differences of the 1850 Victorian 2d stamp. Victoria was the first colony to make stamps compulsory in 1852. In those days there were more varieties (printing errors and mistakes) than variations and collecting these has become one of the main branches of philately. I have only kept statistics of decimal stamps and there were 24 variations in 1966, the first year of decimal currency. Last year there were 706 variations. (Yes, an increase of two since last month as more perforation variations are discovered! See Perforation Watch above.)

Australia Post celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> year with an issue of 10 designs on 25<sup>th</sup> March. The 10 perforated gummed stamps were issued in a sheetlet containing

a se-tenant block of the 10 stamps and also in a special sheetlet with a large red border in the prestige booklet. The 10 imperforate gummed stamps were issued in a similar special sheetlet in the booklet. The



# Australian Stamp Variations

individual imperforate stamps are collectable stamps and hence are not valid for postage. The 20 postage stamps in the prestige booklet cost 45% above face value. A stamp pack of 10 individual perforated gummed stamps was advertised in the Stamp Bulletin and on the Stamps website in error. These stamps were only available in sheetlet format not separate stamps. The 10 self-adhesive variations were available in both a booklet and roll. A feature of the gummed stamps was a “200 years” simulated watermark. The self-adhesive stamps did not have this feature.

If you have not already viewed it, Australia Post’s 200 Years website is worth a look. <https://200years.auspost.com.au> Also, the two “The Stamp of Australia” documentaries on Foxtel pay television were quite interesting. They will be replayed and released on DVD in June.

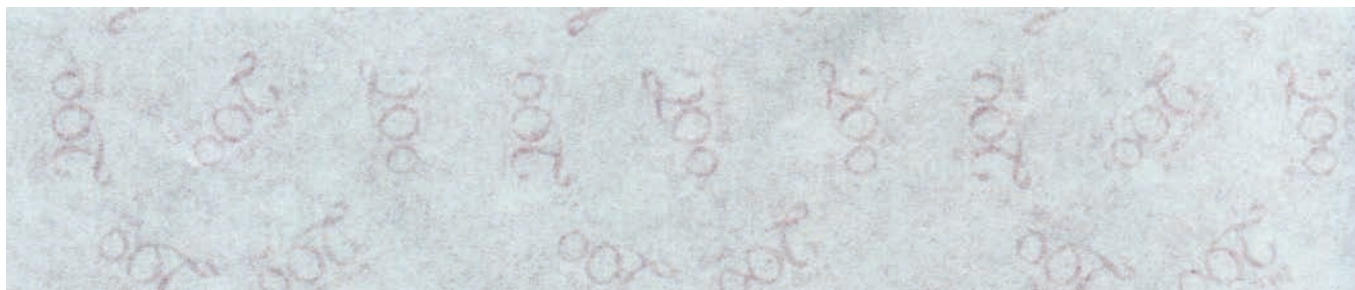
## Imperforate Sheetlet

200 Years			
Variations	25	Cost	\$70.85
Issue Date	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2009		
Stamp Value & Design	55c First Post Master 55c Early Post Office 55c Early Post Box 55c News from home 55c Early airmail 55c Home delivery 55c Post-war immigration 55c Retail Post-shop 55c Express Post 55c Part of every day		
Perforations	Gummed stamps: Perforated 14.6 x 13.9 Fully imperforate Self-adhesive stamps: 11.5 x 11.2 (IDC simulated perforations)		
Blocks	10 x 55c se-tenant perforated 10 x 55c se-tenant imperforate (Collectable stamps)		
Imperforate	10 x 55c (Collectable stamps)		



Celebrating  
200  
years

AUSTRALIA  
POST



Self-adhesive stamps	10 x 55c (Booklet and Roll of 100)
Sheetlets	Small red border: 10 x 55c se-tenant perforated Large red border and logos: 10 x 55c se-tenant perforated 10 x 55c se-tenant imperforate

## Simulated Watermark

2009 First Issue to Date Data	
No. of issues	6
No. of designs	34
No. of stamps*	85
Face value of stamps*	\$48.80
No. of variations	138
Cost of variations	\$387.25
No. of 55c stamps*	83
No. of days to 25-3-2009	63
Average issue rate of 55c stamps*	1 every 18¼ hours
* Including perforation and self-adhesive variations	

*Footnote: The information shown above is based on stamps and variations bought at my local post office. These may differ from those sold at other post outlets. If you find any differences please let me know. The cost quoted in the above summary tables is the minimum cost to obtain one of each variation. Many variations are only available in sheetlets or booklets containing multiple stamps and are often sold above face value. The cost does not include the cost of single gummed sheet stamps when issued. Scan the QR code with your mobile cell phone to go to the ASV home page. Find out what Australia Post actually issued each year in my 1966-2008 ASV Catalogue.*



Australian Stamp Variations home page

**Author of the ASV Catalogue**

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