

# Australian Journal of Philately

(Incorporating: The Date Stamp and Australian Journal of Postal History)

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<b>Date</b>	<b>2013 Programme</b>	<b>Display</b>
17 June 2013	Michael Barden	1935-38 QANTAS mail from Verviers to Oz & HB Smith
19 August 2013	<b>AGM—Members:</b>	Works in Progress
21 October 2012	<b>John McKay</b>	Swedish Neutrality Mail Part 2

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<i>Colin Salt</i>	

Front cover: A registered airmail Rangoon to Box Hill. Back-stamped Melbourne registered & Box Hill.



## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

You will be receiving this issue of the journal earlier than usual as I fly out to Jakarta, Indonesia tomorrow the 30th May at 12:05 after midnight. I will be there for 6 weeks teaching. I will also be visiting some projects that are about to be dedicated on a couple of outlying islands. The interesting part for the journey is when the transport is across a bay for about an hour in a speed boat. As you look around the bay you espy the 6 active volcanos that ring the bay.

Again we are thankful to those who have made a contribution to this journal. Ian Cutter continues to come up with interesting takes on the postcards and covers he finds. George Speirs received his inspiration from a cover displayed in the previous issue and expanded upon the knowledge of it. Thanks to John Young and Michael Barden for their sterling support with articles which display their considerable knowledge of the subjects. Nina Dowden sent me a number of items to use as fill ins which a very useful when there is quarter or half a page empty. Thank you Nina. Not forgetting of course our erudite co-ordinator of the HHDS column, who faithfully produces pages on time each quarter, even after finding out that retirement does not bring lots of spare time; just more jobs!

By now you will have digested your Melbourne 2013 results and either been encouraged or vowed to never exhibit again. Pity that! The displays were magnificent and one wonders where all the material came from. There were some very clever thematic exhibits and there were so many displays that one had to be choosy as to what one looked at.

There was interesting material to buy from the dealers and opportunities to inspect from dealers offerings from various countries was a delight. I personally only had one hiccup which didn't endear me to some of the organisational aspects, but apart from that I thought it was a huge success. Well done.

Finally Just a reminder to keep that material coming???

Ciao for now.

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## Australian Foreign Letter Rates 1901-66

### **John Young**

By the time of Australian federation in 1901 there was a ruling postage rate of 2½ pence in many countries in the British Empire for letters to “foreign” places. Usually the stamps were blue in colour. By 1901 in all Australian states the 2½ pence rate had been in operation for about ten years, and all the states had stamps of that value. New South Wales had been the first to issue such a stamp, the blue allegorical figure of Australia (1890). Tasmania issued a 2½ pence stamp in 1892, colour purple, and ended the century with its indigo Tasman’s Arch pictorial in 1900.

The states had different definitions of “foreign”, but in all cases that word included the United Kingdom until 1905. So, for the first four years after federation postage of 2½ pence for letters was required as follows:

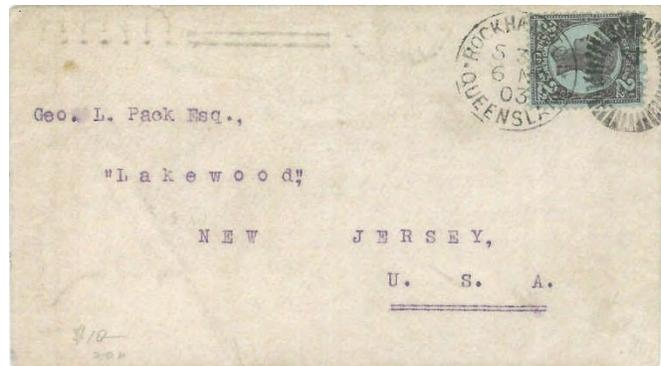
S. Aust and W. Aust	Anywhere in the world, except other states and New Zealand
Qld. And Tas.	As above, also except Fiji
NSW	As above, also except British New Guinea
Vic.	As above, also except New Hebrides

Victoria was the most generous with its exceptions to the foreign letter rate. The reason for excepting New Hebrides probably came from the Presbyterian Church’s missionary work and agitation for annexation of the islands (see R. Thompson, [Australian imperialism in the Pacific](#), 1980).

During 1905 to 1907 the states drew in more parts of the British Empire, excepting them from the 2½ pence letter rate and putting them on a 2 pence rate. By 1911 the process was complete: “foreign” meant non British Empire.



NSW to USA. Transmission 1 OCT – 6 Nov 1901



QLD to USA, 1903



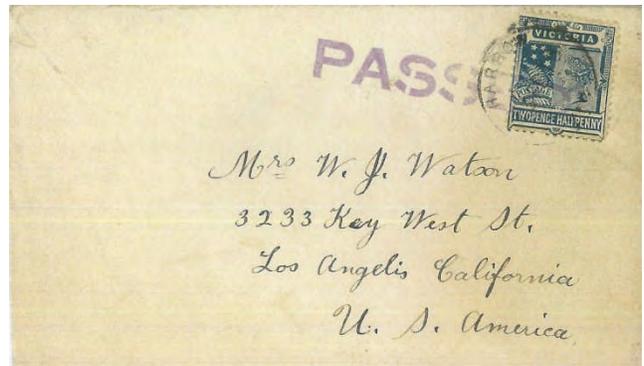
S Aust to USA. Transmission 25 July – 7 Sept 1901



Tasmania to USA. Backstamp 3 June 1913 or 1918



Victoria to Dutch West Indies.  
Transmission 3 March 1908

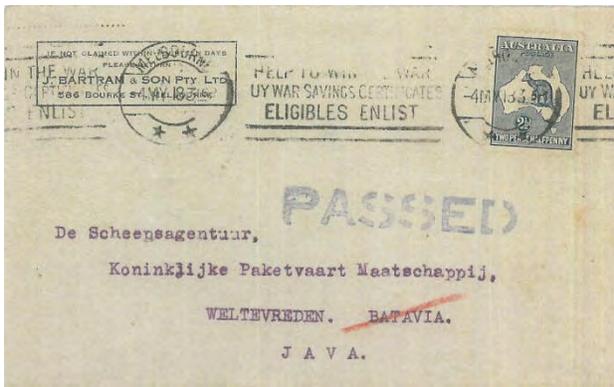


Late use (c. 1916) of Victorian stamp from Harrow, Vic, to USA

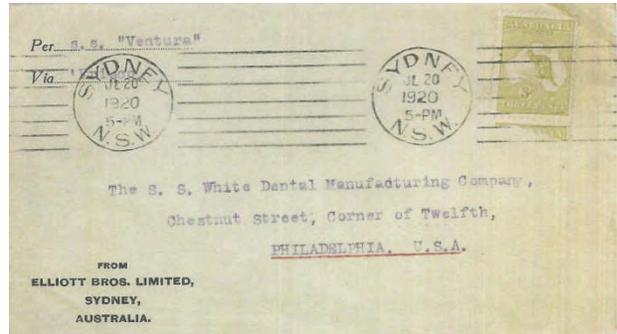


West Aust to still "foreign" England.  
Transmission 27 March – 21 April 1905

The 2½ pence foreign rate went nearly right through to the end of World War 1 with the indigo Kangaroo-on-map stamp. Two weeks before the armistice a half penny war tax was added, making foreign letters 3 pence. Australia made do with the olive 3 pence Kangaroo-on-map stamp until the rate was raised to 4 pence on 1 October 1920.



Melbourne to Java. Transmission 4 May – 8 June 1918

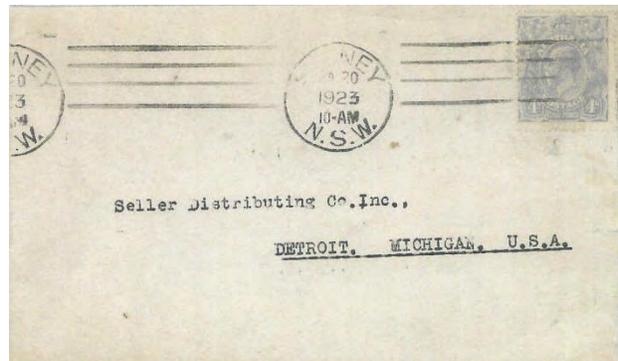


Sydney to USA, 1920

Four pence was also the registered letter rate, and the orange King George V stamp did service until the colour was changed to purple on 21 June 1921 and finally to the correct blue colour on 23 March 1922.

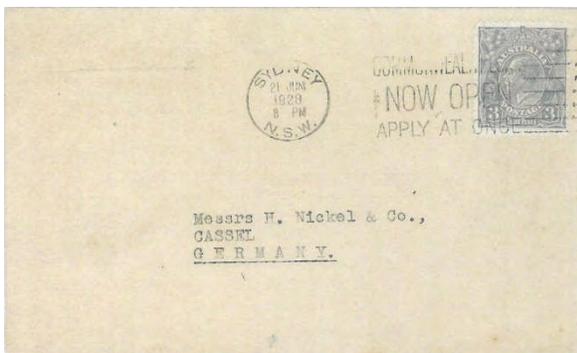


4 pence violet stamp. Melbourne to USA. Transmission 13 Oct – 12 Nov 1922



4 pence blue stamp. Sydney to USA, 1923

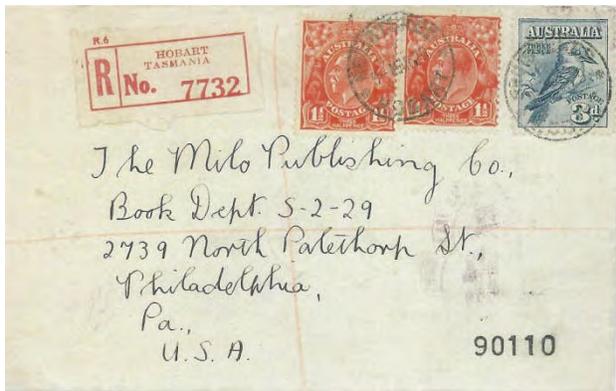
After three years the foreign rate was reduced to 3 pence on 1 October 1923. It continued for eighteen years until 1941 when a half penny war tax was added during World War 2. During that time the 3 pence King George definitive, first issued on 1 May 1924 was reprinted in different dies on papers with different watermarks and perforations, which can make for monotonous viewing. The monotony was broken by various commemorative stamps, from the 3 pence blue kookaburra (1928) through to the AIF stamp (1940). There were eleven such commemoratives, and a definitive portraying King George VI in an admiral's uniform (again in several so-called dies).



3 pence blue 1928



Perth to USA. 3 pence internal Aust airmail and 3 pence surface mail, 1929



Registered. Hobart to USA.  
Transmission 9 March – 16 April 1929



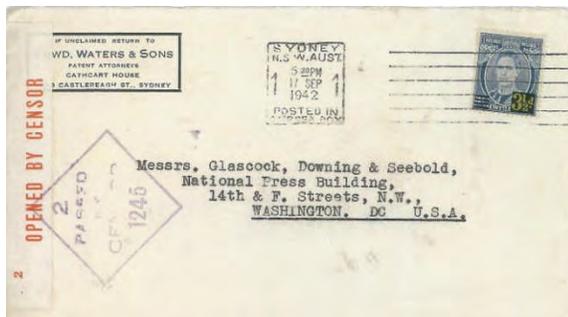
Adelaide to Hawaii, Bass Strait Cable commemorative



Melbourne to Russia and back, 1940

There was also the green 3 pence airmail stamp (1929). In those days 3 pence paid for quite a few things besides foreign letters. It paid for the registration fee, acknowledgement of delivery fee and the airmail fee per half ounce letter in Australia and the territories.

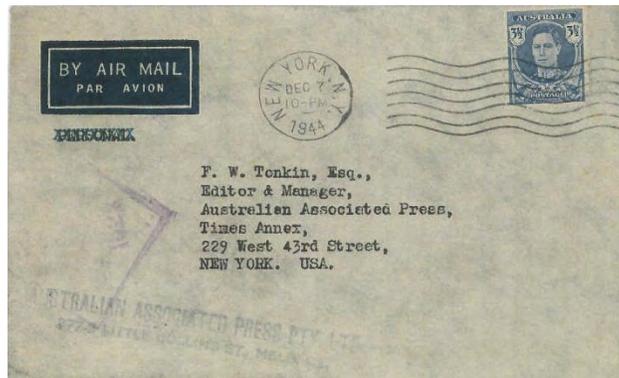
The 3½ pence rate (3 pence postage plus half penny war tax) went from 10 December 1941 until 30 June 1949. The next day the war tax was abolished but postage stayed at 3½ pence. There were two definitives and five commemoratives issued before the next increase in 1950.



Sydney to USA 1942



Melbourne to Noumea, twice censored, 1844

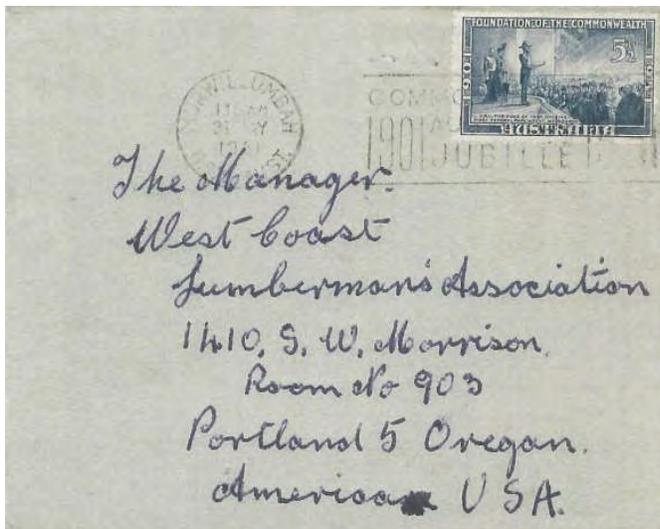


Aust Assoc Press Melbourne to USA, at surface mail rate.  
 Censored Sydney, marked airmail, cancelled in New York 1944, an oddity!

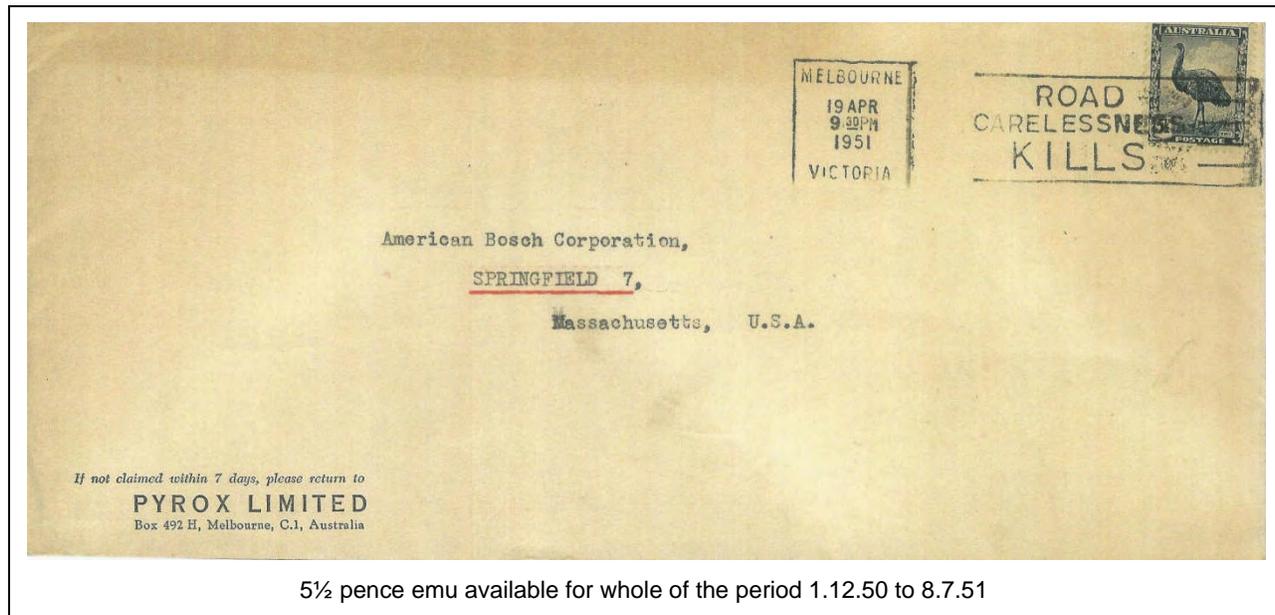
Monetary inflation in the early 1950s caused the foreign postage rate to double in eight months:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Postage (pence)</u>
Until 30/11/50	3½
From 1/12/50	5½
From 9/7/51	7½

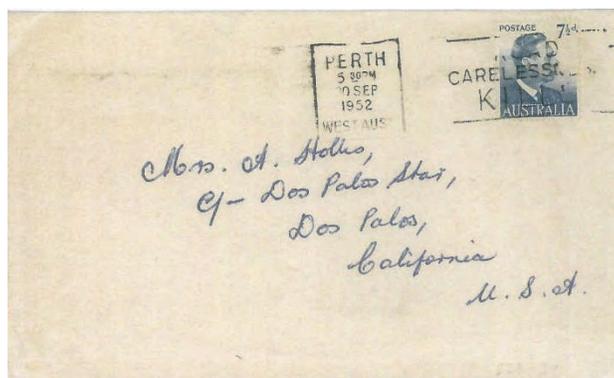
There was one 5½ pence definitive stamp and one commemorative. They were the emu definitive, coincidentally indigo and originally issued for registered letters and airmail letters to Australia and New Zealand, and the indigo federation jubilee commemorative issued on 1 May 1951 and given a life of nine weeks before postage increased again. In the short period of the 5½ pence rate covers with either stamp are rare.



Murwillumbah (with Jubilee slogan cancel) to USA, 1951



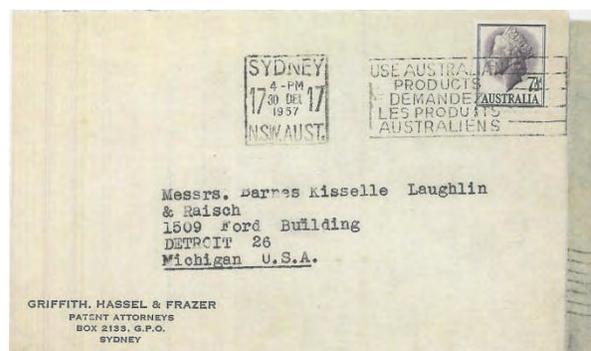
It took the post office fourteen weeks to issue a 7½ pence definitive portraying King George VI. He died on 7 February 1952, fourteen weeks later, but his stamp continued on sale for several years. The new Queen was portrayed on her coronation and royal visit stamps (1953, 1954) but with a break from the traditional colour, purple instead of blue. The 7½ pence (blue) Olympics stamp was the third and last commemorative. The 7½ pence purple definitive was issued on 13 November 1957.



Perth to USA



Out of period (1955) Sydney  
to the Queen of strip tease, USA



Sydney to USA, 1957

By the mid 1950s Australians were opting for airmail over surface mail. After the foreign letter rate went to 8 pence on 1 October 1959 the tiger cat stamp (1960) was made to last until decimal currency in 1966. It also paid for airmail letters to New Zealand and surface mail postcards to foreign countries.



Caboolture to USA, 1961

### Lists of stamps, Australian foreign letter rates, 1901-66

Rate	Period	Stamp	Gibbons Catalogue No.
2½ pence	Until 27/10/18	NSW Q. Vic. portrait Qld. " " S.A. Q. Vic. portrait Tas. Q. Vic. portrait Tasman Arch Vic. Q. Vic. portrait  W.A. Swan Australia Kangaroo on stamp	295-7, 303, 316, 337, 356 236-9 234, 236-7, 239 217 232 335, 360, 388, 397, 419, 428, 436 114 4, 25, 36
3 pence (incl. ½ penny war tax)	28/10/18 – 30/9/20	" "	37
4 pence	1/10/20 – 30/9/23	King Geo. V portrait	22, 64-5
3 pence	1/10/23 – 9/12/41	" " " " commemoratives: Stamp Exhibition Sturt Kingsford Smith Harbour bridge Vic. Cent Jubilee Cable S.A. Cent. Aust. 150 <sup>th</sup> A.I.F Definitive King Geo. VI portrait	79, 90, 100, 128 106 118 122 142 148 157 160 162 194 198 168, 186

Rate	Period	Stamp	Gibbons Catalogue No.
3½ pence (incl. ½ penny war tax)	10/12/41 – 30/6/49	Surcharge King Geo. VI Portrait Commemoratives Gloucesters Peace Mitchell Newcastle	201 207  210 214 217 220
3½ pence	1/7/49 – 30/11/50	King Geo. VI portrait UPU 75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	207 232
5½ pence	1/12/50 – 8/7/51	Emu defin. jubilee	208 243
7½ pence	9/7/51 – 30/9/59	King Geo. VI portrait Q. Eliz. II coronation " visit " definitive	251 265 273 300
8 pence	1/10/59 – 13/2/66	Tiger cat	317

## Honour Envelope from the Pacific

### Tony Lyon

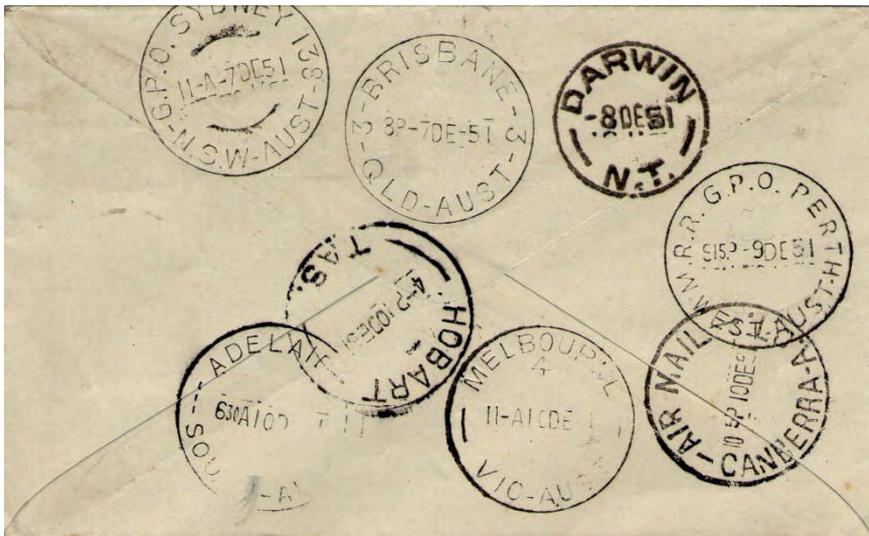
Some time ago I had an enquiry as to whether I had, or had seen an honour envelope sent from the Pacific to New Zealand during WWII. I did not have nor had I seen such an item. At the Melbourne Stamp Show 2013 I discovered such an item in a dealer's offerings and bought it. As you would? Dimensions are 133 mm x 106 mm and has Crown Copyright Reserved in the top right hand and left of the centre divider below the address lines there is the print code 9587- 43, (1943). The colour is a light green.

	<p>An honour envelope sent from the Pacific region;</p> <p>Sent through NZAPO 150 4 by Sgt Samuel Thomas Fullerton of the New Zealand Military Corp (NZMC) 6<sup>th</sup> Field Hygiene Section. Sailed to new Caledonia December 1942. Moved to the Solomon Is, September 1943 where the section was attached to 7<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade Group. In late October it moved to the Treasury Islands by which time Fullerton was a Staff-Sergeant.</p> <p>Appears on Roll 7 and 9 available Ancestry.com.au.</p>
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## One-Day Journeys – Possible to Improbable

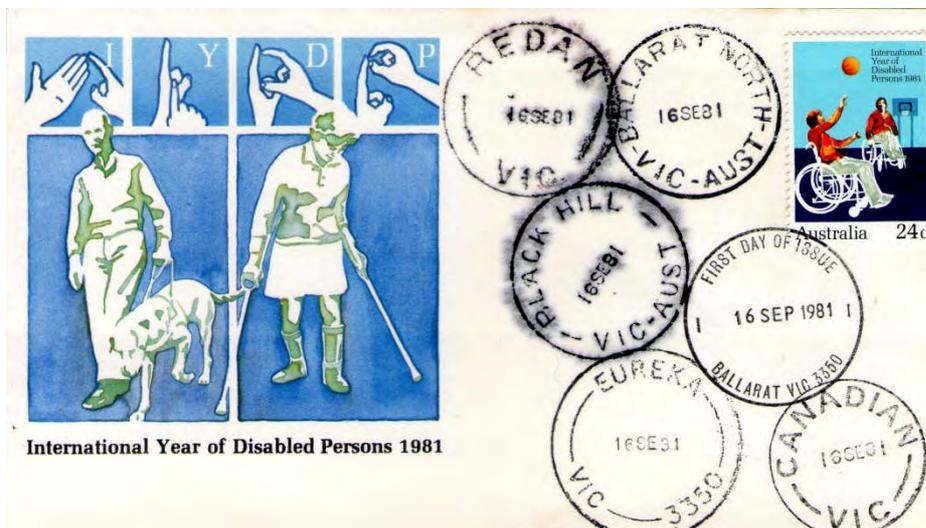
**Ian Cutter**

Sometimes people prepare covers and organize that they be postmarked as they pass along a particular route. The first illustration shows the back-stamps on such a cover. On the front is a 2/- crocodile cancelled in Canberra on the morning of 7 DE 1951, along with a small map of the intended path of the Round Australia Airmail for the Commonwealth Jubilee Year. The cover is addressed to Werribee, and the datestamps track its progress Sydney > Brisbane > Darwin > Perth > Adelaide > Hobart > Canberra > Melbourne, arriving on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>. This presumably required careful planning, but the time elapsed seems appropriate.



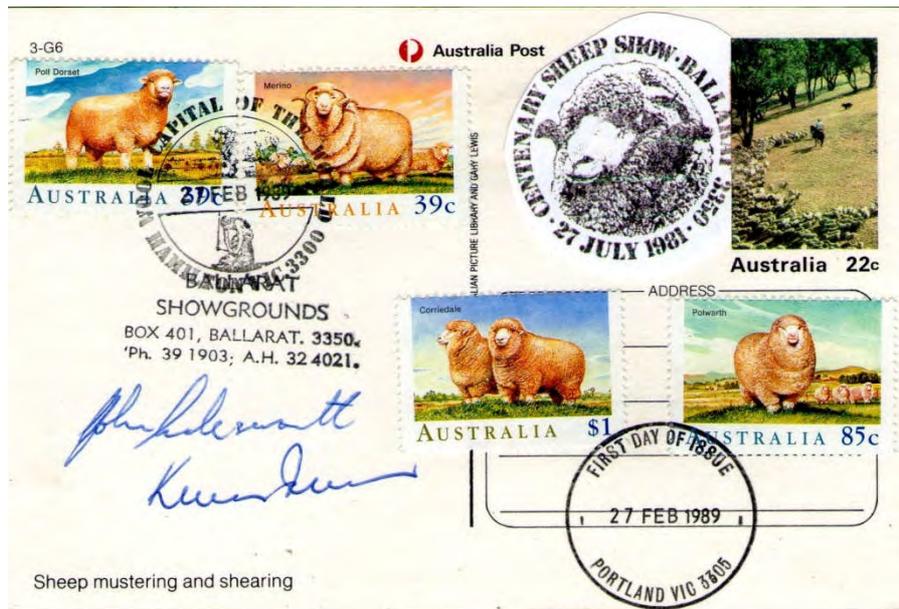
It is a different situation when a cover carries datestamps from two (or more) different post offices for the same date. This raises the question of whether the cover could reasonably have travelled the intervening distance during that one day. Such items are almost invariably first-day covers, and the datestamps rarely show a time.

The International Year of Disabled Persons cover can be seen to have datestamps from six different post offices, and there is also one from Brown Hill on the back. At first sight this seems an unlikely achievement. However, a check of the locations shows that they are all part of Ballarat, so it is actually not unreasonable. Even on foot one person could have visited each one on that same day.



The sheep postcard stretches things a bit further, with 27 FEB 1989 postmarks from both Hamilton and Portland. With the post offices being about 90 km apart some form of wheeled transport would be necessary, but then it would be easily done.

This card also carries a postmark from Ballarat, but that opens up a story of its own. There is no need to fit in a 170km journey from Ballarat to Hamilton or Portland because the date of the Ballarat cancellation is 27 July 1981. It seems that at the time of the Centenary Sheep Show in Ballarat, on 27 July 1981, somebody had taken a number of sheep-related Australia Post pre-stamped cards (e.g. the 20¢ 2-G3 and the 22¢ 3-G6 – neither with sufficient value for contemporary current use) and applied the special datestamp.



[In passing, can anybody recall when Australia Post issued the directive forbidding per favor cancellation of stamps less than the current base rate?]

Also added to the card were the contact details for Ballarat Showgrounds and two signatures.

For some of these cards the story did not end there, because after nearly 8 years they were brought back to life to carry the newly-issued sheep stamps. So, the credibility of the two later datestamps is not called into question, but it was an interesting diversion

The first example for paintings issued on Australia Day 1997 has three postmarks: a First Day of Issue from Lavender Bay (North Sydney), a pictorial of the Harbour Bridge from the Philatelic Sales Centre, and an ordinary CDS of Gerringong, showing the time as 5 PM. There is here some connection between the postage stamps and the place of cancellation – in particular the subject of the painting on the \$1.20 is *Fire haze at Gerringong*.

Gerringong is on the coast about 130km south of Sydney, so a car or train would be necessary for one leg of the journey, but there would be ample time to visit each location.



The second Australia Day cover presents an increased degree of difficulty. It has pictorial datestamps from Royal Exchange Sydney (why?), Civic Square ACT (connection with Australia Day, perhaps?) and Pemberton. (Pemberton !? – why Pemberton?).

The flying time from Sydney to Perth is five hours (although two hours is retrieved through the time difference), then it is 335 km to Pemberton. Given that Civic Square has to be fitted in as well, it would be a pretty busy day, even though there is an airfield at Manjimup, about 25 km from Pemberton.



Finally, we come to the dinosaurs. This cover would have to go from Melbourne to Sydney to Brisbane (perhaps two locations) then 1200 km to Muttaborra (or vice versa). Now that is a really long day.



When thinking about how these covers would have been produced, the assumptions were

Normal working day

Date of datestamp is date of application.

Name on datestamp is place of application.

We might have to abandon the first assumption.

Has anybody any views on the other two?

## A Taxing Decision

### Michael Barden

(This article first appeared in Belgapost V23 No 3. I have used it here with the reply as an interesting situation)

The picture postcard (which shows the Broel Towers in Courtrai), and shown below, was sent from Courtrai/Kortrijk to Tourcoing in France, during March 1921 (possibly 14 March). Initially, I could not read Tourcoing, thinking it was Tourwiny. The latter or any variant did not show up on a listing of French towns, so as the address was Rue de Menin, I went for the atlas, thinking it must be in the same area. That solved the first problem, as the two towns are only some 18 km apart across the Franco-Belgium border.



Naturally, I was intrigued by the 30 centimes French postage due stamp, the use of which still has me baffled. Where was it applied and why? The name of the CDS reads --- ord.

On 1 March 1921, the external postage rate had its first increase since 1907. That for picture postcards and postal cards became 30 centimes. This card was correctly franked or was it? A quick look in the COB showed that the 1920 Olympic stamps (COB 179-181) had been demonetised six weeks earlier on 15 January. However, a closer look showed that this stamp was COB 186 with the 20 c surcharge. These stamps were not demonetised until 1 May 1931 as were the three 5 c Effigy stamps (Haarlem printing) also affixed. Thus the franking was 35 c for a 30 c requirement and all stamps appeared to be valid. Furthermore the cancel time was 16-17 hours, when it was daylight. Maybe it was a wet day and the light poor. Maybe the postal worker was vain about his looks and needed glasses?

If the two towns were so close and just across the border, why should the Rayon Limitrophe rates not apply? This would reduce the postage cost. Deneumostier, Tarifs Postaux Internationaux 1892-1988, shows that indeed these applied between France and Belgium then. On 1 March 1921 this rate became 20c for a postcard.

Could somebody, who is more au fait with local postage rules and rates, please come to my aid? The postage due was obviously paid, as it is not crossed out. Why should it have been applied in the first place? A case of mistaken identity or was it plain too taxing?

My answer came from Nick Martin, now President of the Belgian Philatelic Study Circle (it appeared in Belgapost V24 No 1 and has been edited here). I can confirm that these stamps, as all commemorative stamps, were not valid for international mail until the 1921/1922 UPU Conference at Madrid. The Belgian *Ordre de Service* covering the issue of these stamps (N°8 dated 18 May 1920) stated in the relevant section

*“The new stamps are to be used for the franking of the same type of mail as ordinary stamps and at their face value (5, 10 and 15 centimes), but only for internal services. They will be sold with a surcharge of 5 centimes in favour of the national fund for war invalids.”*

The stamps were not to be used by Post Office staff for official purposes and if members of the public used them to frank postal orders, commercial documents, invoices etc, they were to be accepted only at their face value (ie exclusive of the charity surcharge).

*“The Madrid Conference, having suspended the provisions of Article 11 §1 of the main Convention of Rome, as a result of which the international use of commemorative stamps was not permitted, it is not necessary to surcharge (taxer) mail to foreign countries franked with the “Olympic Games” stamps surcharged 20 centimes.”*

(Note: The 1920 Madrid Conference took place between October 1920 and January 1921. 2248 submissions were made during the 77 sessions!)

As to the Rayon limitrophe, Michael is quite correct in pointing out that the tariff to France was 20c, but only after 01/02/1921. Up to 01/02/1921 it was 15c, the face value of the three copies of the 5c King Albert. The Olympic stamp was therefore quite superfluous.

A look at the Catalogue Officiel<sup>®</sup> is revealing about the use of these stamps. The first set were legal tender for only 240 days, but only 134,524 of the 5c value were printed (472,393 of the 10c and 406,655 of the 15c. Bearing in mind that the 5c was intended for second weight-step printed matter, its use must have been very limited. The 10c was for use on (internal) postcards (rate until 01/11/1920) and thereafter 15c and should therefore in theory not be difficult. 15c was the ordinary letter rate until 01/11/1920.

The overprinted stamps were all of the same value (20c), and therefore suitable to frank ordinary letters from their date of issue until 15/11/1923, when the tariffs changed again. Huge quantities of the overprints were issued (±8m of each value); their valuation on cover in the 2010 Catalogue Officiel is €15, €10 and €15 respectively.

As these stamps were only demonetised in 1931 (COB), clearly later use on foreign mail is possible (and legal).

Maybe other members have commemorative stamps from other countries, which were disallowed for use abroad before the 1920 Madrid UPU conference.

\*\*\*\*\*

## APS Members' awards from Melbourne 2013

Surname	Class		Award	Subject
Michael Barden	2.3	Traditional - Europe	S	Belgium, -10% of 1946
Michael Barden	11A	Philatelic literature, books	V	Belgium, -10% of 1946
David Collyer	4	Aerophilately	LV	Australian WW2 airmail
John K Curtis	7	Postal stationery	LS	GB newspaper wrappers
Mark Diserio	7	Postal stationery	LV	Aust, pre Dec' postal wrappers
Hugh Freeman	11A	Philatelic literature, books	LV	Numerical Cancels of NSW
Tony Lyon	3.2	Postal history, Africa	LS	NZ at War 1939-1945
Joan Orr	12.G	One frame	75	Black Swan Dreaming

## Queenstown?

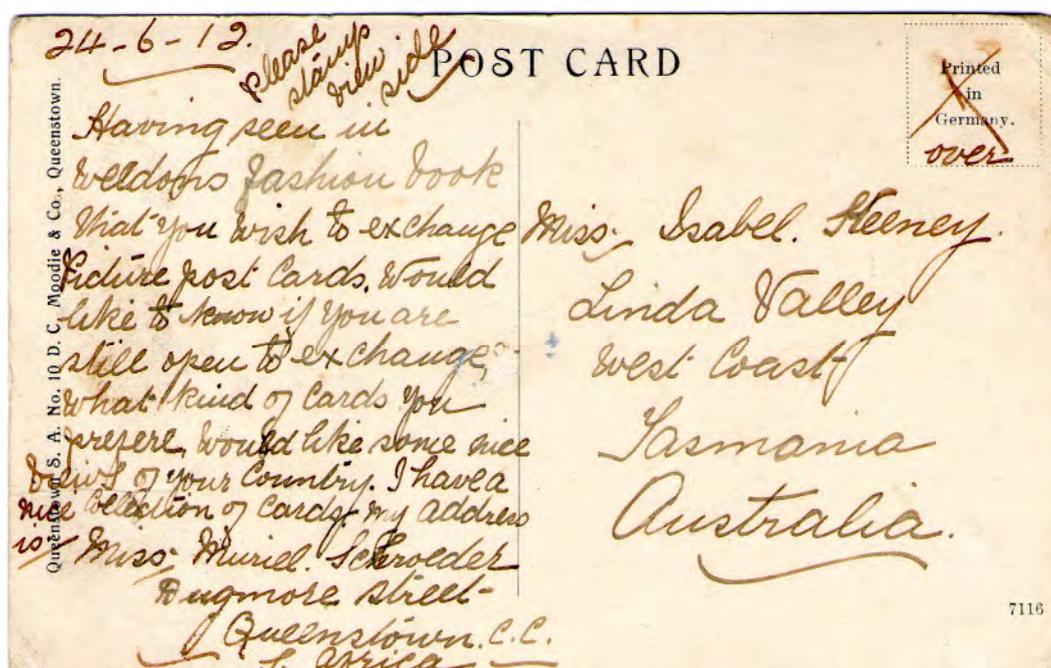
### Ian Cutter

The west coast of Tasmania is a fascinating place, especially for anybody interested in mining or railways. Consequently, this Queenstown postmark caught my attention, particularly when I saw that it was addressed to Miss Isabel Heene of Linda Valley. Linda Valley is an area only a few miles east of Queenstown.

It was only later that it became apparent that there was more to this card than first met the eye.

The first part of the message reads:

*24-6-12. / Please stamp view side / Having seen in Weldon's Fashion Book that you wish to exchange Picture post cards. Would like to know if you are still open to exchange, and what kind of cards you prefer.*



The *Fashion Book* would be *Weldon's Fashion Journal*, which was founded by the English chemist, Walter Weldon (1832 – 1865) who also founded *Weldon's Ladies Journal*. This supplied dressmaking patterns and ran from 1875 to 1954. These journals were the forerunners of subsequent 'home weeklies'.

Walter Weldon devised, among other things, the Weldon process for producing chlorine by the action of hydrochloric acid on manganese dioxide: he did this by improving the reaction



In a way that enabled the manganese dioxide to be recycled. (This is not strictly relevant to the message on the postcard, but it is probably the first occasion when a chemical formula could legitimately be used in the AJP or its predecessor.)

The second part of the message contains the surprise. It goes on:

*Would like some nice views of your country. I have a nice collection of cards. My address is Miss Muriel Schroeder / Rugmore Street / Queenstown C.C. /S.Africa.*

So, the card is not from Queenstown a few miles down the road, but from half-way round the world!

The Queenstown in question was founded in 1853 in what was then the Cape Colony. The town now has a population of around 20 000 – about ten times the size of "our" Queenstown - and is the administrative centre for the surrounding district.



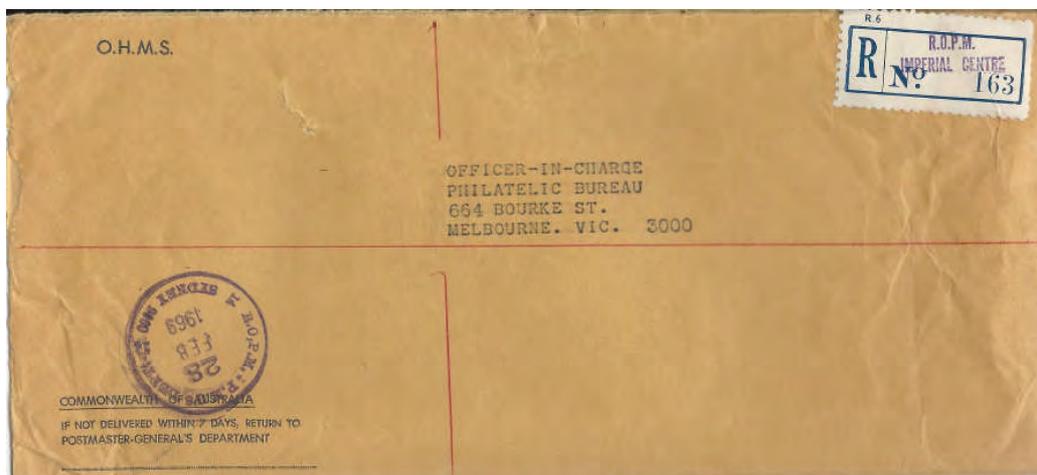
Another surprise is that the 1d red stamp is from Transvaal, at a time when Cape Colony was a member of the Union of South Africa, but Transvaal was not. However, further investigation revealed that the usage is not as strange as might appear at first sight.

The arrangement was that after 31 May 1910 this stamp could be used in the whole of South Africa. Conversely, those of the former colonies could be used in Transvaal. Until early in 1911 examples of interprovincial use are said to be rare. After that time, stamps of all the four former colonies were distributed from Pretoria, and later in 1911 stocks were replenished by printing only Transvaal issues. The new definitive stamps of South Africa were then issued in September 1913. [I think that explanation serves for this particular postcard, although the detail may not be precise.]

One wonders if Miss Heeney was at first puzzled by the strange “local” postcard, and whether Miss Schroeder had realized she was writing to another Queenstown.

**Nina Dowden** sent in this long registered envelope from R.O.P.M Imperial Centre and asks the following:

- Does anyone know where Imperial Centre is? It's Sydney according to the circular cancel which also appears on the reverse.
- What does R.O.P.M. mean?



Cancel on reverse and front

## His Majesty's Fijian Ship 'Viti'

### **George Spiers**

In the March issue, no. 123 of the society journal on page 17 was a cover from a serving member of H.M.F.S. Viti. This vessel was built in Hong Kong and was originally commissioned as R.C.S. (Royal Colonial Ship) Viti in 1939 as the Vice-Regal Yacht for the Governor of Fiji, Sir Harry Luke. She was sumptuously fitted out with a private promenade and a vice-regal suite paneled in pale maple wood, and had a range of 7,400 miles.

On the outbreak of war, Governor Luke insisted that Fiji needed a naval force; consequently the Viti was commissioned as HMFS Viti. In order to give some protection in its assigned tasks during the war, particularly in the deployment and support of Coast Watchers, a 4 inch gun was fitted in late 1940.

There are comments in *The World at War - Gilbert & Ellice Islands 1892 -1957* in which an entry dated July 19, 1941 states. Twenty two volunteers from the N.Z. 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade Group and 15 radio operators from New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department left Suva on board the Viti for coast watching duties in G & E Islands.

Further to the above, the late renowned postal historian Robin Startup provided a more detailed account on the Viti.

### **H.M.F Ship Viti. -Movements 1941-46. From Robin Startup.**

I have finally been able to collate comments relating to the "Viti" taken from the records of the Royal New Zealand Navy (*Official History of New Zealand at War* by S. D. Waters).

27 November 1941	Reported under the direction of the Governor of Fiji.
8 December 1941	Governor reported that "Viti" had been sent to Auckland, N.Z for overhaul and the fitting of anti-submarine equipment.
19 December 1941	Reported to have arrived at Auckland en-route to Lyttleton for refit.
26 December 1941	HMNZS Gale arrives at Suva to replace "Viti" in Fijian waters.
31 March 1942	"Viti" when crossing the Bay of Plenty en-route from Wellington to Auckland reported the presence of a submarine, a subsequent search found no trace of the submarine.
Early April 1942	Arrived at Suva, relieving HMNZS Moa, a minesweeper, from patrol duties in Fijian waters.
Later April 1942	"Viti" joined by HMNZS Matai, the two vessels working in partnership until October 1942 when "Matai" was replaced by HMNZS Tui.
Mid 42 - May 44	"Viti" spent these two years undertaking anti-submarine patrols in Fijian waters, broken up by odd, rare, visits to Samoa, New Hebrides and Solomon's (Guadalcanal) on escort duty.
Mid 1944	"Viti" returns to Lyttleton for disarming and refitting as a supply vessel for use around the islands, particularly the Solomon's.
1945/6	Sold to Tasman Steamship Co (a group set up by former servicemen) who used it to inaugurate an inter-islands shipping service. The "Viti" was renamed "Wakakura" once it entered service with the Tasman Shipping Co.

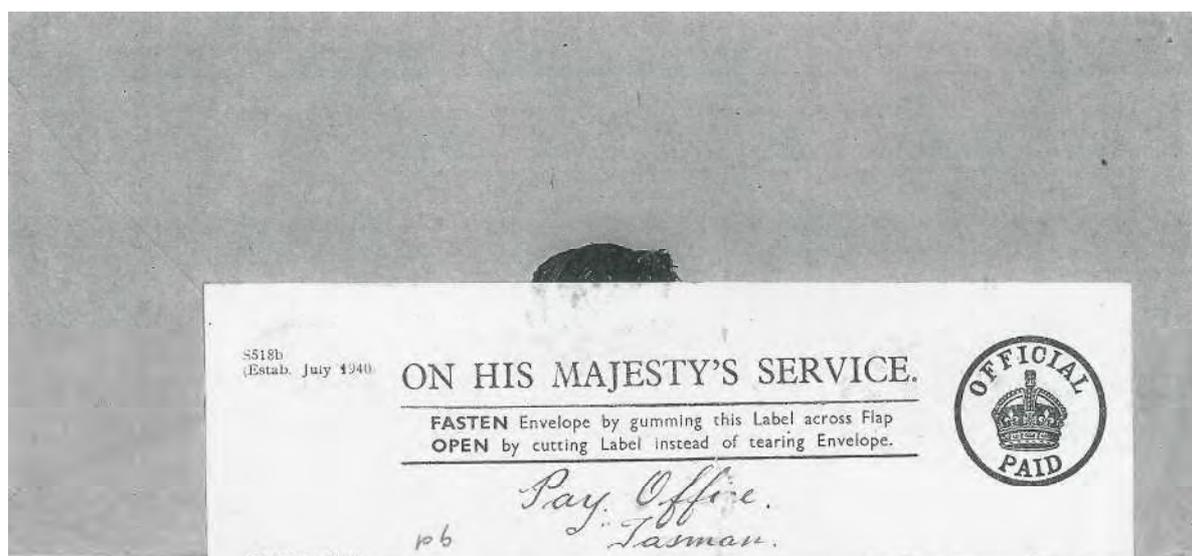
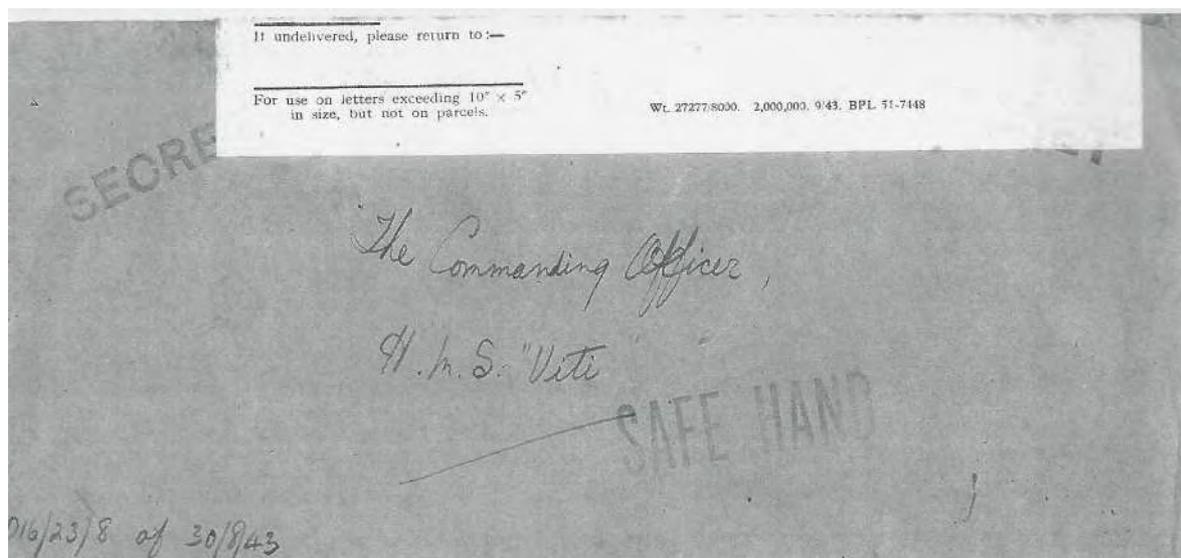
The (published) *New Zealand Register of British Ships*, (page 730) reports that the steamship Wakakura, is a 274 ton, two deck, schooner rigged vessel, built in Canada by the Port Arthur Shipbuilding Co in 1917, which was registered to the Tasman Steamship Co in September 1947. The registry was closed in May 1953, the ship being broken up (possibly wrecked).

My interest in this vessel is a dark manila envelope, sealed with three wax seals on the reverse flap over which has been applied an OHMS Official label which states: - Fasten envelope by gumming this label across the flap. Open by cutting the label instead of tearing the envelope. The label carries the address Pay Office - Tasman with a further manuscript below - The Commanding Officer, HMS Viti. A reference number D 16/231 8 of 30/8/43 has been added in the lower left corner. Finally two rubber handstamps have been applied in green ink.

SECRET in upper left and right corner and SAFEHAND below the address.

The cover, addressed to Pay Office Tasman, a naval establishment in Auckland possibly meant that the envelope in question contained information that was of further orders contained therein for the commanding officer.

I understand that items marked SAFEHAND and SECRET are seldom seen markings and can only be used with Government permission.



### Bibliography.

The assistance given by The Pacific Island Study Circle ( U.K.) is gratefully acknowledged.

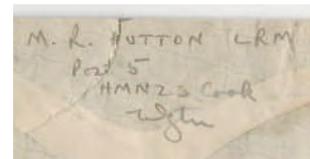
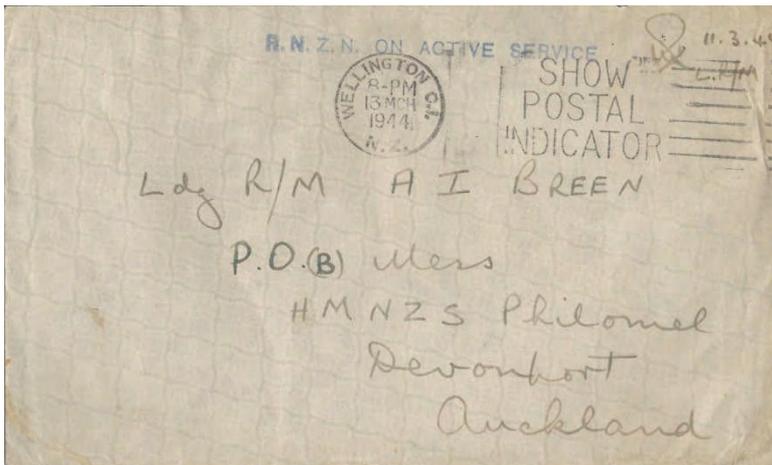
## New Zealand Musings New Zealand at War 1939-45

**Tony Lyon**

Continuing on from last issue regarding covers from various naval personnel.

### HMNZS Cook—Naval Base

Cover sent from a Leading Radio Man to Ldg R/M at HMNZS Philomel the Naval Base at Devonport, Auckland. HMNZS was established at Shelley Bay, Wellington, work commencing in May 1942. Single line R.N.Z.N. On Active Service applied. Wellington machine cancel 13 MCH 1944. Postage Free.



Reverse  
sender address  
HMNZS Cook

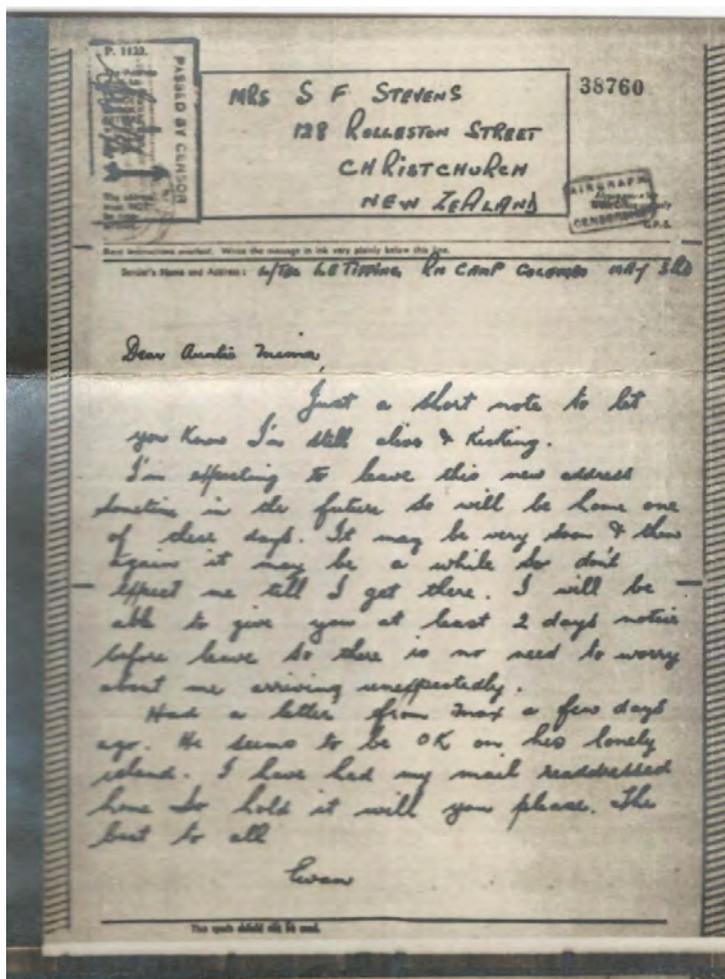
### HMNZS James Cosgrove—Minesweeper

HMNZS was an Auckland owned trawler compulsorily acquired in late 1939 for conversion to mine sweeping duties. On the 18 July 1940 the operational activities for these vessels was laid down and James Cosgrove became part of the first group. *"The First Group would operate as a unit for carrying out routine searches, and clearing sweeps if necessary, in the following areas: North Cape, Cape Brett, Maro Tiri-Moko Hinau, Cradock Channel, entrance to Colville Channel, East Cape, Cook Strait western approaches, Lyttelton approaches. The limits of the search area and direction of search were defined in each case."* (<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-WH2Navy-c12.html>)

Cover addressed to Port Fitzroy, Great Barrier Island. A C class Auckland Railway dated 26 JL 40 and a Naval Censor No 7 was allocated to the James Cosgrove. Postage Free.



**RN Camp, Colombo**



Airgraph from L/Tel L. Ewan Tipping dated 3 5 44 and senders address given as **RN Camp Colombo, Ceylon. Rectangular Airgraph Censorship P. 1122 (London) plus rectangular Passed by Censor.**

**LST 412**

W G Stevens sent this letter whilst serving on LST 412 (Landing Ship Tank). This vessel was transferred from the United States Navy to the United Kingdom and commissioned 26 January 1943. It was one of the landing craft which took part in the invasion at Anzio and Nettuno area of Italy in January 1944. Dated 17. 2 .44, it has been censored **with a naval tombstone mark**.

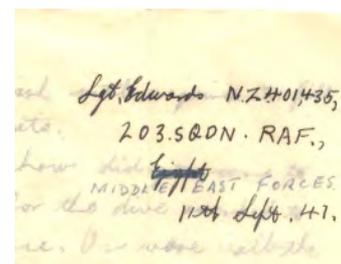
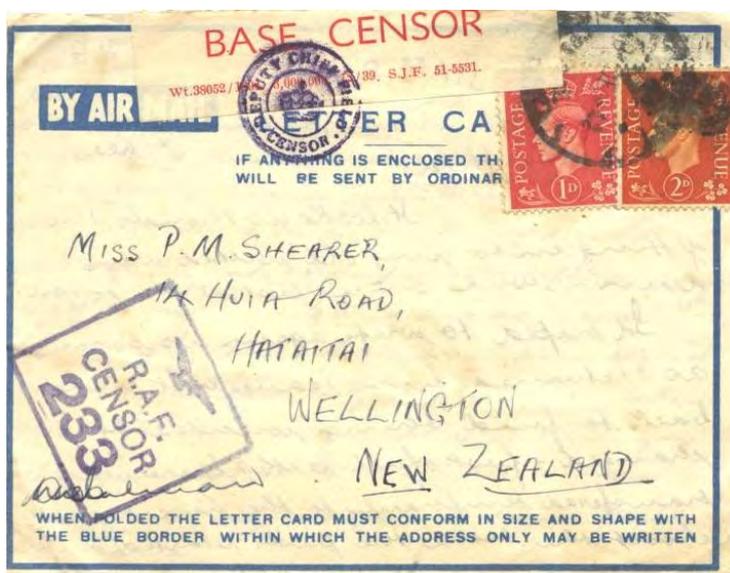
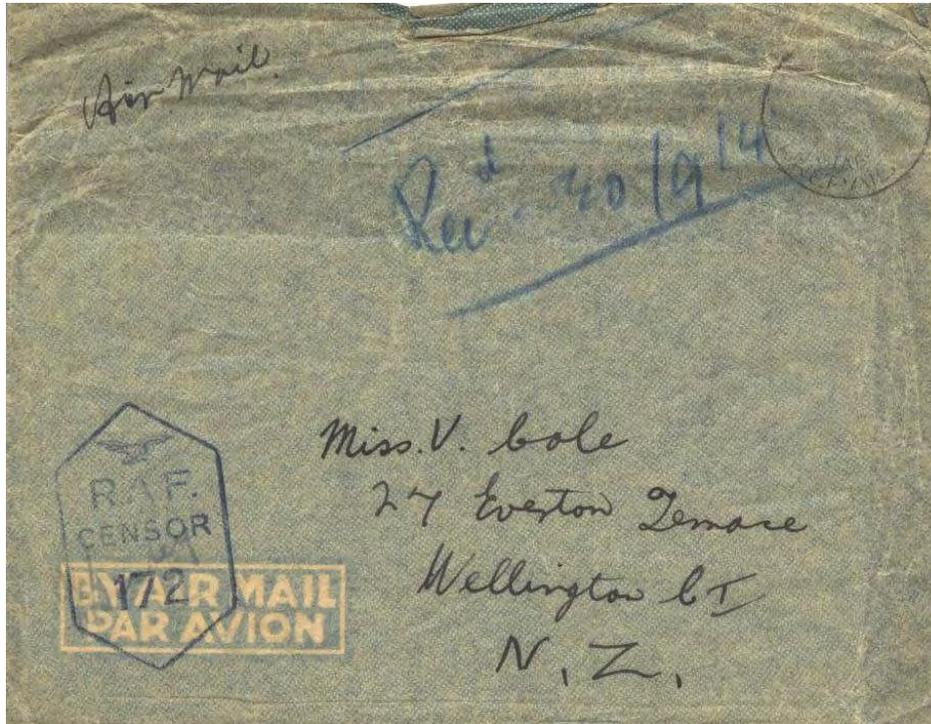


## RAF/RNZAF in Middle East

## Egypt

The following section shows covers from RNZAF or RAF personnel. Members of the airforce served with RAF squadrons or dedicated RNZAF squadrons in the various theaters of the war.

Cover from a Sergeant with RNZAF serving with 203 Squadron in the Middle East. The letter was written 11 September 1941. At that time 203 Squadron was stationed in Egypt. There is evidence of a **Egypt Postage Prepaid datestamp** and it was censored by a type **R9 (Colley & Garrard) No 172**. Postage stamp removed.



Enclosure address of sender

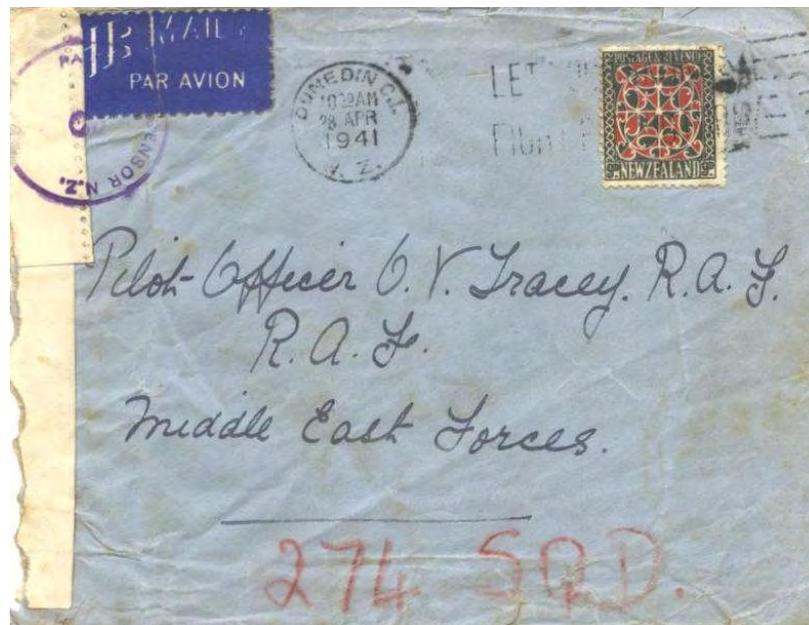
Air Letter from a Secretary of the YMCA and censored with a **type R11 RAF censor No 233**. Censor No. 233 was used by 107 MU (Maintenance Unit) in Egypt. Base censor tape and Deputy Chief Field censor cachet. The secretary's work involved services at Canteens and YMCA huts etc. **Letter Card rate 3d**.

## Port Tewfik (Suez)

Cover Posted through **British APO S. 208**, indicated by **Egypt Postage Prepaid 72** cancel. **APO 208** was located at **Port Tewfik (Suez)**. Sent to Orari, South Canterbury, NZ and redirected to Geraldine. Censored by a type **R10 No 669** which was used by **Reserve Middle East Pool (personnel awaiting assignment)**. Surface mail free, transit 35 days.



Alexandria



Letter to an RNZAF Pilot Officer serving with **274 Squadron RAF**. This Squadron was equipped with Hurricanes and were stationed in defense of Alexandria until the SAAF took over 16 April 1941. Were involved in operations over Crete covering the evacuations. **Opened and sealed by censor No 8 which was used at Wellington. Postage 9d airmail rate**, (to members of NZ armed forces in Middle East and Great Britain 14 September 1940 - 6 February 1942). By air from New Zealand to Egypt by the **Horseshoe Route**, TEAL to Sydney and then by the Eastern Route via Batavia, Singapore, India, Persian Gulf and Iraq to Cairo. The Horseshoe route continued until December 1941 when Japan entered the war.

**COUNCIL for the YEAR 2012-2013**

**President:** John Young

**Past President:** vacant

**Vice-President** vacant

**Honorary Secretary:** Irene Kerry

**Honorary Treasurer:** John Steward

**Honorary Librarian:** John Young

**"Australian Journal of Philately" Editor:** Tony Lyon

**Committee:** Michael Barden, Tony Lyon

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and REPORT and STATEMENT of  
ACCOUNTS for year ending 30 June 2013**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the RSL Homes, 152 Canterbury Road, Canterbury on Monday 19 August 2013 at 8.00 pm, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting held 20 August 2012
3. The President (or his nominee) will report on the year's work of the Society
4. The Honorary Librarian's Report and other reports will be presented
5. The report of the Honorary Treasurer on the Accounts will be read
6. To receive and adopt Accounts of the Society for year to 30 June 2014
7. Elections:
  - a) The following nominations for Officers of the Society have been received: **President:**  
John Young;

**Vice-President** — no nomination; **Secretary** Irene Kerry

There being no other nominations, the above-named will at the Annual General Meeting be deemed to be elected.

- b) The under mentioned Officers being eligible have offered themselves for re-election and there being no further nominations, will at the Annual General Meeting be deemed to be elected:

**Honorary Treasurer** - John Steward

**Honorary Librarian** — John Young

- c) Following nominations for Members of Council have been received: Michael Barden, Tony Lyon, and since no other nominations were received, said will be deemed to be elected as Members of Council.

8. To appoint an Auditor in accordance with the Constitution.
9. Any other business that may arise.

## Hand-Held Date Stamps

### **Co-ordinated by George Vearing**

In the last edition I highlighted a postmark cancelling a stamp with no post office details and now John Young has sent me another one and the same criteria applies to this one..

The return address on the envelope was from Warrenwood and as the nearest Post Office is Croydon Hills and only a small post office, it was most likely posted at Croydon or Ringwood.



Also does anyone know what RRT stands for? Does anyone have any idea where it could be posted PROCESSED BY RRT and where would it fit into a postmark collection?

Some interesting details about the datestamps in this edition, Rokeby from Tasmania has the dateline in red, Clonard from Victoria has 2 identical, Eaglehawk has 0 as a number (most unusual) and the Williamstown Pictorial has a different dateline to the earlier datestamp

Many thanks to Richard Peck. Ian Cutter, Simon Alsop and John Young for their contributions to this column.

### **N.S.W.**



### **TAS.**

### **QLD.**

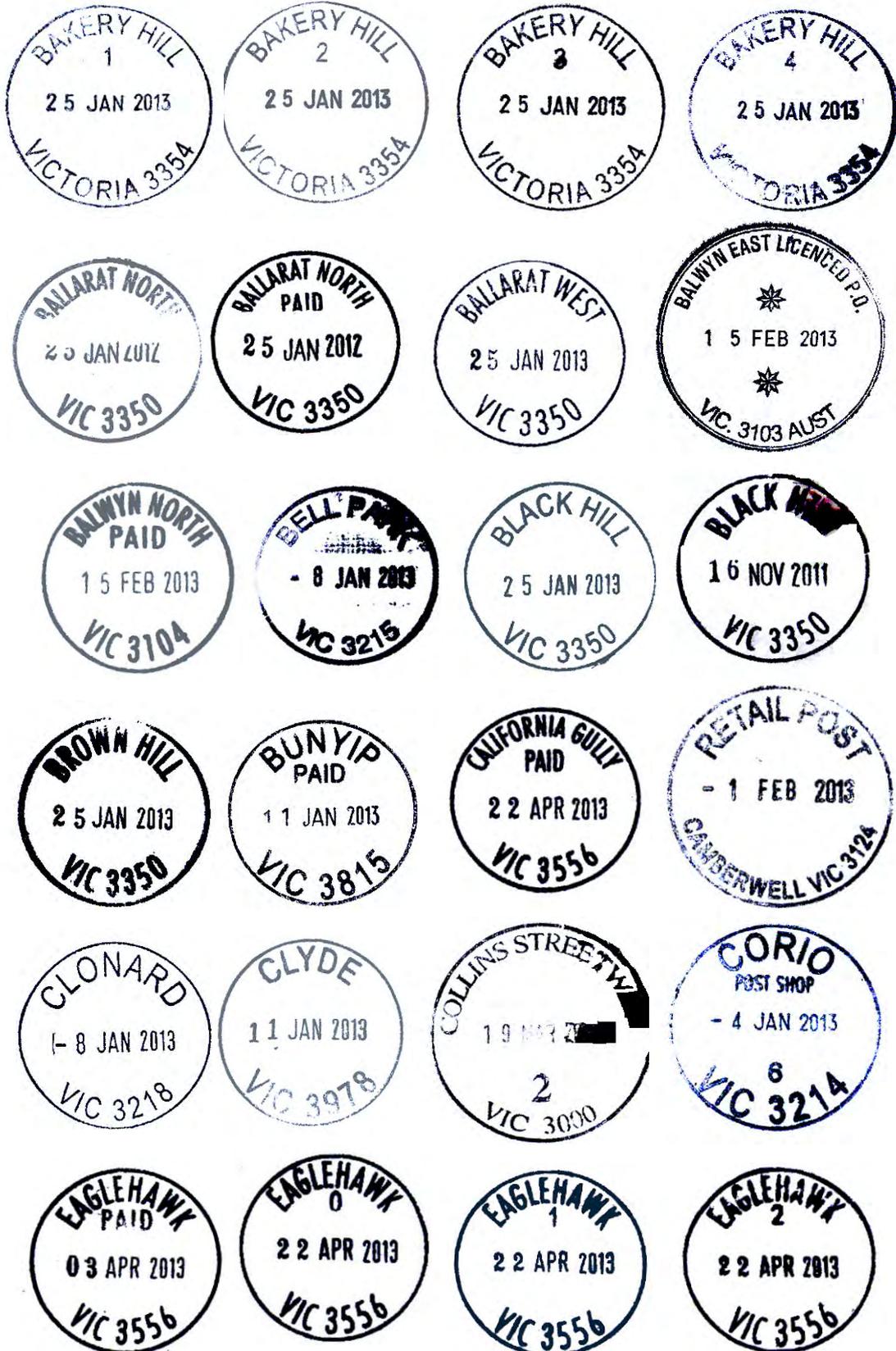


### **S.A.**

### **VIC:-Earlier Datestamps—ALFREDTON PAID (106/26)**



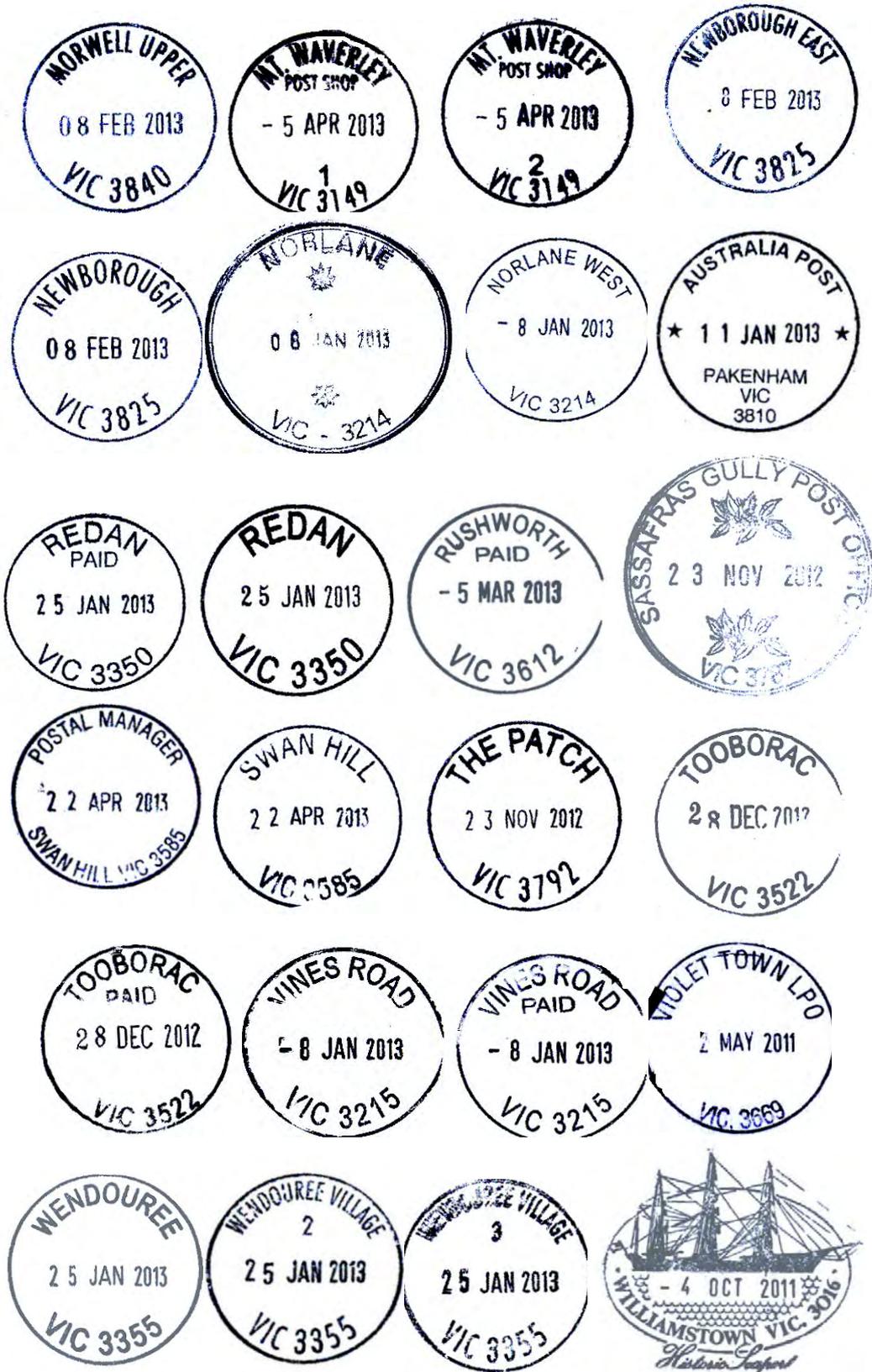
VIC.- (CONT) Earlier datestamp:-BALWYN EAST (103/26)



VIC:-(cont) Earlier datestamp:- LAKE CHARM (111/30)



VIC:-(cont)Earlier datestamps:- NORLANE (117/28) NORLANE WEST (117/28)  
 PAKENHAM (117/29) ,REDAN X2 (105/29) VINES ROAD (115/29)



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## What YOU can do to help the Australian Philatelic Society

- ◆ Sign up a new member
- ◆ Write an article for the Journal (Better still, write two!)
- ◆ Send the Editor any interesting philatelic news
- ◆ Come to the bi-monthly meeting if in Melbourne
- ◆ Help George Vearing with his Datestamp Notes
- ◆ Get involved in one of the Study Groups
- ◆ Enter the Society Competitions
- ◆ Volunteer to display your collection at the monthly meeting
- ◆ Ensure the Council receives your feedback and suggestions for the Society

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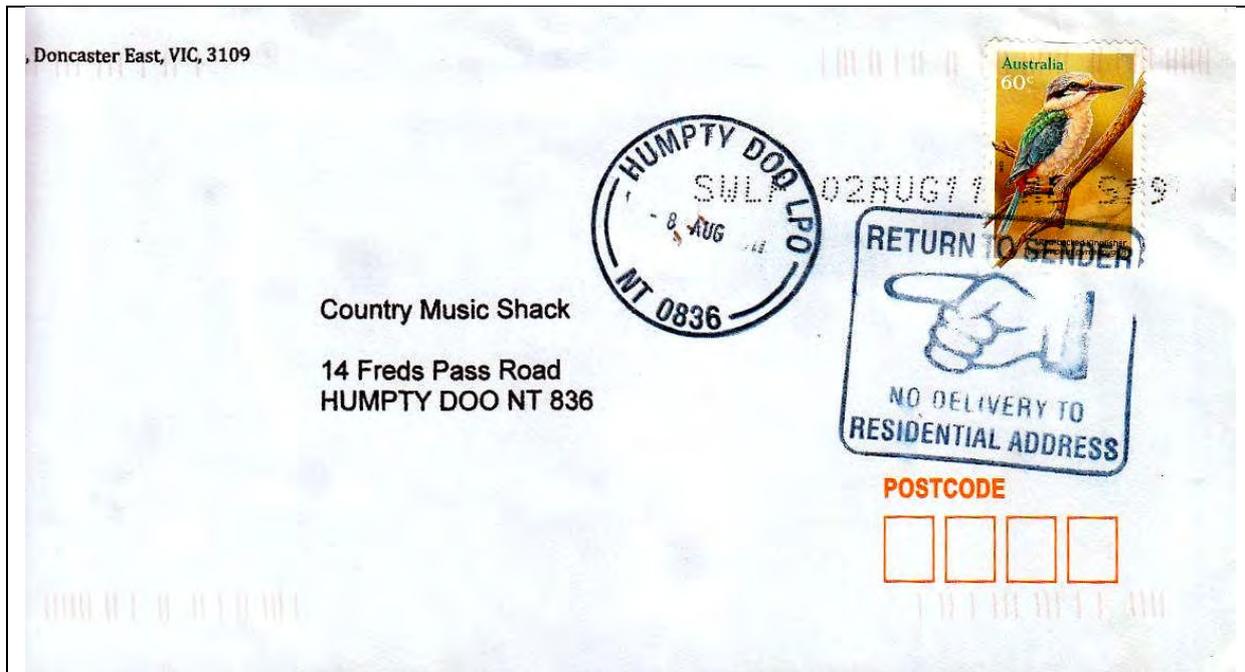
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Web: [www.argyll-etkin.com](http://www.argyll-etkin.com)

## Return to Sender: No delivery to Residential Address

### Colin Salt

My cover addressed to Humpty Doo shows a good impression of what, at first glance, is a variation on the familiar pointing hand/return sender handstamp used on undelivered mail. On closer inspection however, there is a significant addition to the wording – NO DELIVERY TO A RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.



Humpty Doo is in the Litchfield Municipality and the following comment appears on their web-site:

### “Postal Services

Residents in the Litchfield Municipality do not receive, to the door, mail delivery services from Australia Post. As delivery of mail to the property is not provided, mail must be collected from the nearest postal outlet either at the counter or from a post office box provided at a concessional rate.

Post offices/delivery centres within the Litchfield Council area are located at;

- Howard Springs Shopping Centre Post Office, Whitewood Road
- Humpty Doo Post Office, Arnhem Highway
- Noonamah Supermarket Post Office, Stuart Highway
- Darwin River Trading Post, Australia Post agent, Darwin River Road
- Berry Springs BP, Australia Post agent, Cox Peninsular Road
- Virginia Store, Australia Post agent, Virginia Road”

The Postmaster at Humpty Doo ( a Licensed Post Office) tells me via email that any item not collected is returned to sender on instructions of Australia Post.