

STAMP NEWS

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Australian Stamp Variations

Details of the main variations in recent stamp issues

3D Stamps

A few months ago on a Sunday morning I visited The Rocks Market in Sydney. There I came across a stall selling framed 3D stamps. What a fantastic "variation" on a philatelic collectable.

I chatted to stall-holder, Lilly, and she explained how they were made. A number of paper images are layered to make the stamp appear to be in a 3-dimensional format. This craft is called Paper Tole and has been around for centuries. It is generally made from multiple copies of large pictures but Lilly and husband, Mick, have perfected it using small postage stamps. Lilly told me, "Mick introduced me to paper tole, in the mid 1990's. I had a stressful job at the time and needed something to take my mind off work, after hours. Mick has his own picture framing business and is an architect by occupation, so was well aware of the craft."

During the 1990's, she paper toled traditional large pictures and these went quite well at the major shows. Mick then suggested they paper tole stamps and they both started working with them as a 'joint venture'. In 2002 they entered a frame in the Paper Tole Craft Section at the Sydney Royal

Easter Show. They received 1st Prize and were awarded the "Grand Champion" ribbon. This is the highest award a craftsperson can receive. Their display consisted of a frame of 34 single stamps and 4 minisheets. Lilly commented, "Our idea of having a large selection of stamps in one frame was to have a special composite item, rather than have many individual framed stamps displayed around the house. Entering it in the Show was the incentive to complete the project. This was so different from the large pictures that are usually entered. The judging is based on detail, presentation and techniques." Since receiving the award, Lilly has become a Paper Tole judge!

The time taken to paper tole a stamp is based on the detail of the stamp. It takes many hours of concentrated work. Six identical mint stamps are required and the main feature of the stamp image is cut out and layered. Mick then places the stamp or stamps in a frame. (They have received permission from Australia Post to paper tole postage stamps.)

At their market stall they have over 40 different Australian stamps on display. They do work on commission and often receive orders from people overseas who have either bought one of their items



David Mallen



at the market or who have heard of them from friends. Many people who have travelled overseas bring back 6 stamps from the country they have visited and Lilly and Mick paper tole and frame it for them. The “in” thing at the moment is paper toling the self-adhesive “personalised stamps” with photo tabs for that really unique birthday, wedding

or anniversary present.

Their work has extended to the corporate sector as well. They are now making company gifts which include an engraved company logo on the board or frame that surrounds the paper toled image. Mick said, “We have received many telephone calls and letters of appreciation. That’s



Australian Stamp Variations

Details of the main variations in recent stamp issues



what keeps our interest going. Our clientele ranges from people who want something unique to celebrities and even Prime Ministers!"

So if you want a unique stamp to add to your collection or to give as a prize or gift, contact Lilly or Mick Rosic on (02) 9681 6962 or by e-mail at mibex1@gmail.com or mibex2@msn.com or visit them at The Rocks every Saturday or Sunday. The pictures accompanying this article do not do justice to Lilly and Mick's craft. You must see the 3D stamps "in person".

Queensland 150 Years

On 6th June 2009 Queensland celebrated 150 years. It was established in 1859 by Queen Victoria. To commemorate this, two gummed stamps depicting icons of the State were issued on 9th June – 55c Parliament House, Brisbane / Simpson Desert / Windmill and \$2.75 Great Barrier Reef / Cape Tribulation beach / Red-eyed Tree Frog. They came with just 2 variations: A minisheet and a 55c/\$2.75 se-tenant pair. No self-adhesive stamps were issued in this set.

150 Years of Queensland			
Variations	2	Cost	\$6.60
Issue Date	9 th June 2009		
Stamp Value & Design	55c Parliament House, Brisbane / Simpson Desert / Windmill \$2.75 Great Barrier Reef / Cape Tribulation beach / Red-eyed Tree Frog		
Perforations	14.6 x 13.9		
Pair	55c & \$2.75 se-tenant pair (minisheet)		
Minisheet	55c & \$2.75 se-tenant pair		

Variations & 55c Statistics (Issue 1: 22 nd January to Issue 12: 9 th June 2009)	
No. of issues	12
No. of designs	55
No. of stamps*	115
Face value of stamps*	\$80.00
No. of variations	172
Cost of variations	\$536.65
No. of 55c stamps*	101

David Mallen

No. of days to 26-5-2009	139
Average issue rate of 55c stamps*	1 every 1½ days
* Including perforation and self-adhesive variations	

Footnote: Thanks to Lilly and Mick Rosic for supplying the information and photos for the 3D Stamps article. The stamp information shown above is based on stamps and variations bought at my local Post Shop. These may differ from those sold at other Australia 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.



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