



Australian Prestige Booklet Pages

Australia Post's Premium Stamp Collection

1997 – 2017

As an owner of *Australian Stamp Variations* two great catalogues of decimal stamp variations, I offered author, David Mallen, access to some of my Prestige Booklets so he could complete his new book. It was published in April and he sent me a copy. It has been meticulously prepared and exceeded my expectations.

It has images of every page (pane) that contains stamps from the 257 booklets authorised by Australia Post in the first 21 years. The original 'Classic Cars' Prestige Booklet issued in 1997 features on the cover. The black background makes the images stand out and is an artistic touch, for the same reason that many serious collectors use black page stock books for their collections.

Special Prestige Booklets such as those released at Stamp Shows (usually containing imperforate stamps), the AFL souvenir booklets and the Zodiac booklets are included. (The 2006 dual Snapshot! booklet on pages 61 & 62 was a surprise!) Only one example of each of the 4 sets of AFL booklets (2004 – 2007) is shown. I was disappointed that the Bombers, my football team, did not feature but I can understand why. The format of the pages for each team was identical, only the background, players and logos were different. If David had included all teams it would have added another 75 pages to the book. There are no NRL or other Australian sport Prestige Booklets as yet.

If there was a variation between the stamps on the Prestige Booklet pages and the original single stamps issued in sheets, the main details are shown at the bottom of each page. 'Variations' here include how a stamp was grouped. e.g. A multiple block of the same stamp that was not issued originally as such. The Statistics table and graph at the back of the book shows how many booklets were issued or released in the 21 years. I had forgotten that a massive 43 Prestige Booklets were published in 2005, although I have most if not all of them.

The soft cover book (200 x 250mm) has 220 pages and is printed in Australia. A preview is available on-line at au.blurb.com/user/asvcat If you are at all interested in Australian Prestige Booklets, you need this book, and the price, especially for the serious collector, is a steal!

Collecting Prestige Booklets has been one of my favourite aspects of stamp collecting. I can see why David describes the contents of the book as his "favourite collection".

Professor Greg Jackson
Canberra
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