

Australian Stamp Variations

David Mallen

Details of the main variations in recent stamp issues

Robin Hood Reprint

The Russell Crowe portrait stamp from the 2009 Australian Legends of the Screen issue was released on 6th May in two sheetlets of 10 stamps with tabs. These were available in a special stamp pack for \$13.50. The stamp has a white background compared with the light grey background of the original issue. This release coincided with the film Robin Hood in which New Zealand-born Russell Crowe plays the leading role. The tabs depict scenes from the film: Robin Hood standing and Robin Hood taking aim with a bow & arrow. (Cate Blanchett starred as Maid Marion in the film. Strange that her 2009 Australian Legends of the Screen stamp was not included in the stamp pack.)



Australian Legends of the Screen – Russell Crowe				
Type 2 Reprint – OSD: 6 May 2010	Stamps		Variations	
Gummed stamps: (Perf = 14.6 x 13.9)	No.	FV	No.	Cost
55c Russell Crowe (portrait) – white background	1	55c	1	\$13.50
1 sheetlet of 10 stamps with tabs (Robin Hood standing)			1	\$13.50
1 sheetlet of 10 stamps with tabs (Robin Hood aiming)			1	
55c Russell Crowe (portrait) stamp with Robin Hood standing tab			1	\$13.50
55c Russell Crowe (portrait) stamp with Robin Hood aiming tab			1	
Totals	1	55c	5	\$40.50

Queen Victoria

3 different \$5 stamps were issued on 7th May depicting the head of Queen Victoria from the 1837 painting by Alfred Chalon. This issue announces “Australia 2013: Centenary of the Kangaroo Stamp” world stamp exhibition to be held in Melbourne in May 2013. The stamps were issued in two minisheets and a sheetlet of ten stamps. (The sheetlet is described as “Mocules of 10” on the Australia Post Stamps website. We have a new word in philately! If you know what a mocule is please let me know.) The perforated stamp in the minisheet was printed in bold compared with the other two stamps. The imperforate variation was intaglio printed and issued in a minisheet at a cost \$15. Each stamp contained a simulated “CH” watermark in an oval monogram.



Colonial Heritage – Empire				
Stamp Issue No. 10 – FDI: 7 May 2010 (Overprinted minisheet: 8 May 2010)	Stamps		Variations	
Gummed stamps: (Perf = 14 x 13.6 & Imperf)	No.	FV	No.	Cost
\$5 Queen Victoria (perf) [sheetlet]	1	\$5		
\$5 Queen Victoria (perf) [minisheet] – thick printing	1	\$5	1	\$5
\$5 Queen Victoria (imperf) [minisheet] – intaglio printing	1	\$5	1	\$15
1 sheetlet of 10 stamps (perf)			1	\$50
1 minisheet – \$5 Queen Victoria (perf)			1	\$5
1 minisheet – \$5 Queen Victoria (perf) – “London 2010” gold overprint			1	\$5
1 minisheet – \$5 Queen Victoria – intaglio (imperf)			1	\$15
Totals	3	\$15	6	\$95.00

Great Journeys

Also issued on 7th May was the Great Australian Railway Journeys set of stamps. The 14 variations consisted of 3 se-tenant blocks of 4 stamps, 6 minisheets (1 small, 1 small overprinted and 4 large), 4 self-adhesive stamps and a self-adhesive sheetlet. A total of \$69.60, including the 8 stamps, for the thematic collector!

Great Australian Railway Journeys				
Stamp Issue No. 11 – FDI: 7 May 2010 (Overprinted minisheet: 8 May 2010)	Stamps		Variations	
Gummed stamps: (Perf = 55c: 13.9 x 14.6, \$2.10: 13.6 x 14)	No.	FV	No.	Cost
55c The Ghan 55c The Indian Pacific 55c West Coast Wilderness Railway (Tasmania) \$2.10 Kuranda Scenic Railway (Queensland)	4	\$3.75		
1 minisheet – \$2.10 (140 x 90mm)			1	\$2.10
1 minisheet – \$2.10 – “London 2010” gold overprint (140 x 90mm)			1	\$2.10
3 blocks of 4 stamps [prestige booklet] 2 x 55c Ghan, 55c Indian Pacific & 55c West Coast Wilderness Railway 55c Ghan, 2 x 55c Indian Pacific & 55c West Coast Wilderness Railway 55c Ghan, 55c Indian Pacific & 2 x 55c West Coast Wilderness Railway			3	\$12.95
3 large ‘minisheets’ each containing a block of 4 stamps [prestige booklet]			3	\$12.95
1 large ‘minisheet’ containing \$2.10 stamp [prestige booklet] (155 x 105mm)			1	
Self-adhesive stamps: (Die-cut simulated perf: IDC = 11.2 x 11.5, CDC = 11.2 x 11.2)				
3 x 55c [booklet & roll of 200] (IDC)	3	\$1.65	3	\$11.00
\$2.10 [sheetlet] (CDC)	1	\$2.10	1	\$10.50
1 sheetlet – 5 x \$2.10 (CDC)			1	\$10.50
Totals	8	\$7.50	14	\$62.10



London Festival of Stamps

Coinciding with the Festival of Stamps in London from 8th to 15th May, four minisheets were overprinted with the gold “London 2010” logo. Two of the minisheets (Queen Victoria and Railway Journeys) were identical to those previously issued and two were new. The two new ones (Queen’s Birthday and Centenary of Powered Flight) had the text “London 2010 8 – 15 May” printed as well as the gold logo overprint. The Queen’s Birthday minisheet contained a special multiple-issue block of 4 previously released Birthday stamps from 2006, 2008, 2009 & 2010. The Centenary of Powered Flight minisheet contained a special se-tenant block of 4 with two 55c stamps and two \$1.45 stamps.



Centenary of Powered Flight (London 2010)				
Stamp Issue No. 5 (contd.) – OSD: 8 May 2010	Stamps		Variations	
Gummed stamps: (Perf = 13.9 x 14.6)	No.	FV	No.	Cost
1 block of 4 – 2 x 55c & 2 x \$1.45	2	\$1.00	1	\$2.00
1 minisheet – “London 2010” gold overprint			1	\$2.00
	Totals	2	2	\$4.00

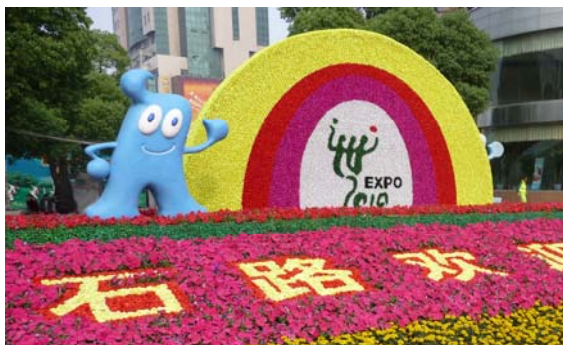
Queen’s Birthday – Multiple-issue Minisheet (London 2010)				
Type 2 Reprints – OSD: 8 May 2010	Stamps		Variations	
Gummed stamps: (Perf = 14.6 x 13.9)	No.	FV	No.	Cost
50c 2006, 50c 2008, 55c 2009 & 55c 2010 Queen’s Birthday stamps	4	\$2.10		
1 block of 4 – 50c 2006, 50c 2008, 55c 2009 & 55c 2010			1	\$2.10
1 minisheet – “London 2010” gold overprint			1	\$2.10
	Totals	4	2	\$4.20

Shanghai Expo

I was in Shanghai in May but chose not to go to the World Expo. The queue to enter the site was 2 hours long and the lines into the main pavilions were 3 hours! I have included some photos taken from the Lupu Bridge over the Huangpu River and of Hai Bao, the Expo mascot. 2 stamps and 2 variations in this Australian issue. This was tiny compared with the Chinese Expo issue. I viewed it at the airport China Post shop but declined their offer of the special stamp booklets. They ranged in price from A\$20 to A\$2700. So many Expo stamps and Expo tabs! Go to www.cpi.com.cn for full details.



Shanghai World Expo 2010				
Stamp Issue No. 12 – FDI: 18 May 2010	Stamps		Variations	
Gummed stamps: (Perf = 14.6 x 13.9)	No.	FV	No.	Cost
55c Australian Pavilion 55c “Peng Peng” kookaburra mascot	2	\$1.10		
1 se-tenant pair – 2 x 55c			1	\$1.10
1 sheetlet – 10 x 55c			1	\$5.50
	Totals	2	2	\$6.60



Heritage Sites

Another basic issue of 55c and \$1.10 domestic stamps. 4 gummed stamps and 2 self-adhesives. Why does Australia Post persist with gummed stamps of these values? Ask for “stamps” at my nearby Post Shops and all you’ll get are self-adhesives torn off the roll. Why issue a \$1.10 stamp when the staff give you two 55c self-adhesives anyway?

Australian World Heritage Sites				
Stamp Issue No. 13 – FDI: 25 May 2010	Stamps		Variations	
Gummed stamps: (Perf = 55c: 14.6 x 13.9, \$1.10: 13.9 x 14.6)	No.	FV	No.	Cost
55c Purnululu National Park 55c Kakadu National Park \$1.10 Gondwana Rainforests \$1.10 Tasmanian Wilderness	4	\$3.30		
2 se-tenant pairs – 2 x 55c & 2 x \$1.10			2	\$3.30
Self-adhesive stamps: (Interrupted die-cut simulated perf = 11.5 x 11.2)				
2 x 55c [booklet & roll of 100]	2	\$1.10	2	\$5.50
Totals	6	\$4.40	4	\$8.80



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, CDC = Continuous Die Cut, IDC = Interrupted Die Cut.

Variations Statistics : Jan – May 2010		
Statistic	No.	Cost
New issues	13	–
New designs	45	–
New stamps	134	\$99.70 FV
Variations	273	\$955.05
New 55c stamps	119	–
Average issue rate of 55c stamps	1 every 25 hours	

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

