

AUSTRALIA POST 'GIFTPAK'

Ian McMahon

In November 1989 Australia Post issued a postpak box called a 'Giftpak', this is illustrated in Figure 1. The 'Giftpak' sells for \$7.50 and prepays the delivery of a parcel up to 5 kg to any destination in Australia by surface mail. The price of the box includes a card featuring a eucalypt flower, protective plastic wrapping and a small piece of tape. The box is printed with an overlay of 'Postpak' in white on a red background with black lettering and when folded ready for use is 32 cm x 23 cm x 10.5 cm in size. The box is not inscribed with a denomination but rather the 'stamp' area is merely inscribed 'POSTAGE PRE-PAID AUSTRALIA'. The reverse of the box includes space for a sender's address and a panel containing instructions on the use of the box. Among other things this states that there is a maximum weight of 5 kg, that the use of other services (eg registration etc) in conjunction with the box is permitted, that the box could be used once only, that the flat rate of postage was based on average costs and so could be at variance with postage charged for other services and that the box is a uniform rate container for the purposes of Clause 100 of the General Postal Services Terms and Conditions.

The 'Giftpak' was advertised in the press in early December 1989. The advertisement proclaimed, "...cross all the fiddly bits off your gift list", and continued, "...now when you send a gift, you won't have to fiddle around with wrapping paper, padding, string or tape. You don't even have to remember to buy a card. Giftpak, available from any post office, is a sturdy box that looks like it's gift wrapped and protects whatever you want to send."

The issue of the 'Giftpak' follows two years of experimentation by Australia Post with the issue of parcel labels immediately prior to Christmas in 1987 and 1988. For Christmas 1987, Australia Post trialled in Tasmania a pre-paid label. This label, sold with a postpak box, prepaid parcels up to 10 kg to destinations in New South Wales and Victoria. This was followed in Christmas 1988, by parcel labels known as 'Santapak' labels, see Figure 2. In the eastern states these were available in three types all prepaying parcels up to 10 kg - one for intrastate parcels and the other two prepaying parcels for delivery within New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia (one for surface mail and one for air mail). The labels were supplied with a postpak box and were intended to provide discounted rates for Christmas parcels. They were advertised by a

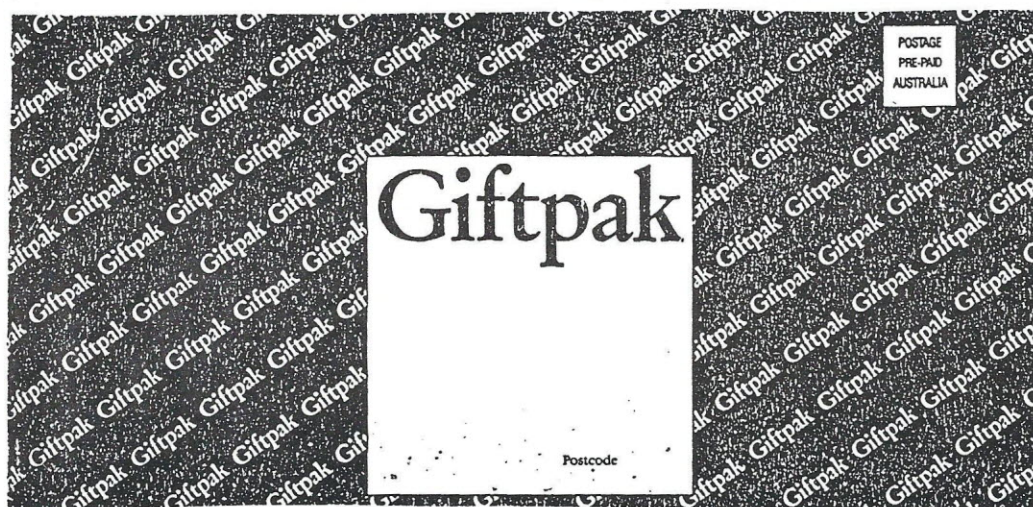



Figure 1 The Australian Post 1989 'Giftpak', not actual size

colour brochure which was distributed to many households and which encouraged customers, "... if you can't be there at Christmas send your love in a Santapak" and claimed that the 'Santapaks' were the economical way to send Christmas presents to your loved ones.



POSTAGE PRE-PAID AUSTRALIA

AUSSIEPAK

FOR POSTING AND DELIVERY
BETWEEN N.S.W., VIC., QLD., S.A., TAS.

To: _____

Postcode _____

Sender Name _____
Address _____

MAXIMUM MASS 10KG
OFFER VALID UNTIL 31 DECEMBER
THIS IS A GENERAL PURPOSE CONVENIENCE PRODUCT
Alternatives for specific purposes are available

Nº 272051


A PRE-PAID **Parcel Post** PRODUCT FROM  **Australia Post**

Figure 2 The Australia Post 'Santapak' label Christmas 1988, actual size.

AUSTRALIAN CHANGE OF ADDRESS KIT

Ian McMahon

On 9 October 1990, Australia Post released a 'Change of Address Kit' to assist people moving house with the often onerous task of notifying others with their new address. The kit includes 15 pre-stamped envelopes, twenty change of address notification cards, a booklet on handy hints on moving (including 'planning your move', 'correctly addressed mail' and a check-list of who to notify of the change of address) and a redirection form. The cards come in two types, the first for use to businesses such as credit cards or insurance companies which provide space for account and credit card numbers and the other for use to friends and relatives. The price of the kit includes a discount on the cost of redirecting mail with the enclosed redirection form stating that:

'...the use of this application entitles private applicants and specified pensioners to a \$1.50 discount off the cost for the first chargeable month of redirection'.

The pre-stamped envelope in the kit is 115mm by 160mm in size and is non-denominated being inscribed 'Postage Paid Australia'. It prepays postage for delivery in Australia with additional postage payable for delivery outside Australia. The envelope is printed in red on yellow paper with the stamp area featuring a stylized house with the inscription 'Change of Address Notification' in the upper left hand corner. Individual envelopes are only available by mail order from the Australian Philatelic Bureau at a cost of 50c each.

In contrast to countries such as New Zealand and Canada which have provided change of address cards which can be used without cost to the public, Australia Post has decided to follow a different course to ensure that there is no loss of revenue.



POSTCODE

--	--	--	--

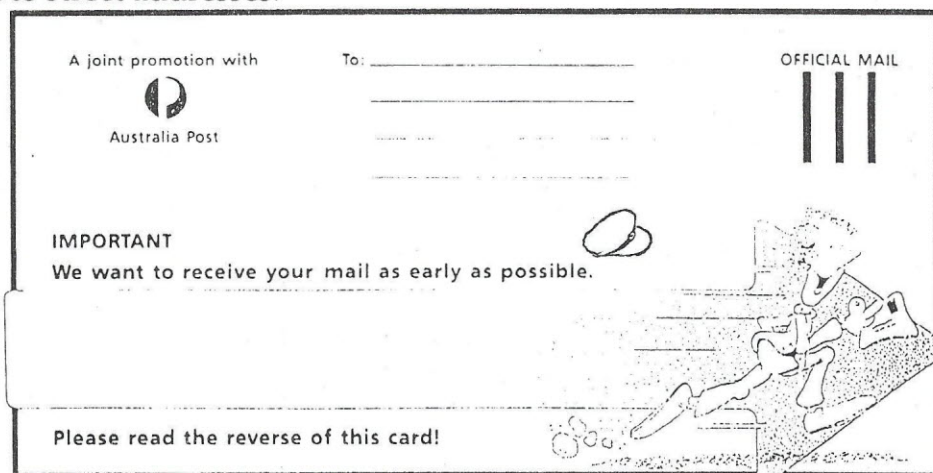
AUSTRALIA POST - POST OFFICE REDIRECTION CARD

Ian McMahon

Darryl Fuller recently drew my attention to a postcard, illustrated below, provided to firms using post office boxes to enable them to encourage their clients to use their post office box address rather than their street address. The postcard is printed in red and black and is 20cm by 15 cm in size. The front of the card features a fast moving postman and is inscribed ...' we want to receive your mail as early as possible'. The stamp area features three bars and is inscribed 'official mail' so that no postal charges are paid by the user. The reverse of the card provides space for the firm's post office box address and shows an unhappy expectant mail recipient with an empty letterbox and a delighted boxholder with mail at his post office box. The card advises that:

'Mail addressed to our post office boxes is available to us much earlier than street addressed mail. You can help us to attend to your requirements by addressing ALL mail to our post office box. Please change your mailing records NOW.'

The cards were apparently first used in Queensland but the example illustrated below comes from a regional initiative of the North Sydney Region of Australia Post with Darryl's example having been used by a company in Chatswood. The advantage to Australia Post is presumably that it is easier and cheaper to deliver mail to post office boxes than to street addresses.



The cards are similar to redirection cards used by countries such as USA, Canada and New Zealand. In those countries cards with official mail 'stamps' are provided free to the public to enable them to advise their correspondents of a change in their address. The New Zealand card exists in a number of versions differing mainly in the design of the official mail 'stamp'.

Capital Philately was entered in the National Literature Class and posted to Melbourne but, for reasons unknown, failed to arrive. However, *Capital Philately* did gain a Silver-bronze at the Second National New Zealand Philatelic Literature Exhibition held in Palmerston in June. John Campbell the editor of *The Mail-Coach* (NZ's premier postal history journal) saw the entry on display and a library exchange of the two journals has been arranged.

AUSTRALIA POST 'BUSINESSPAK'

Ian McMahon

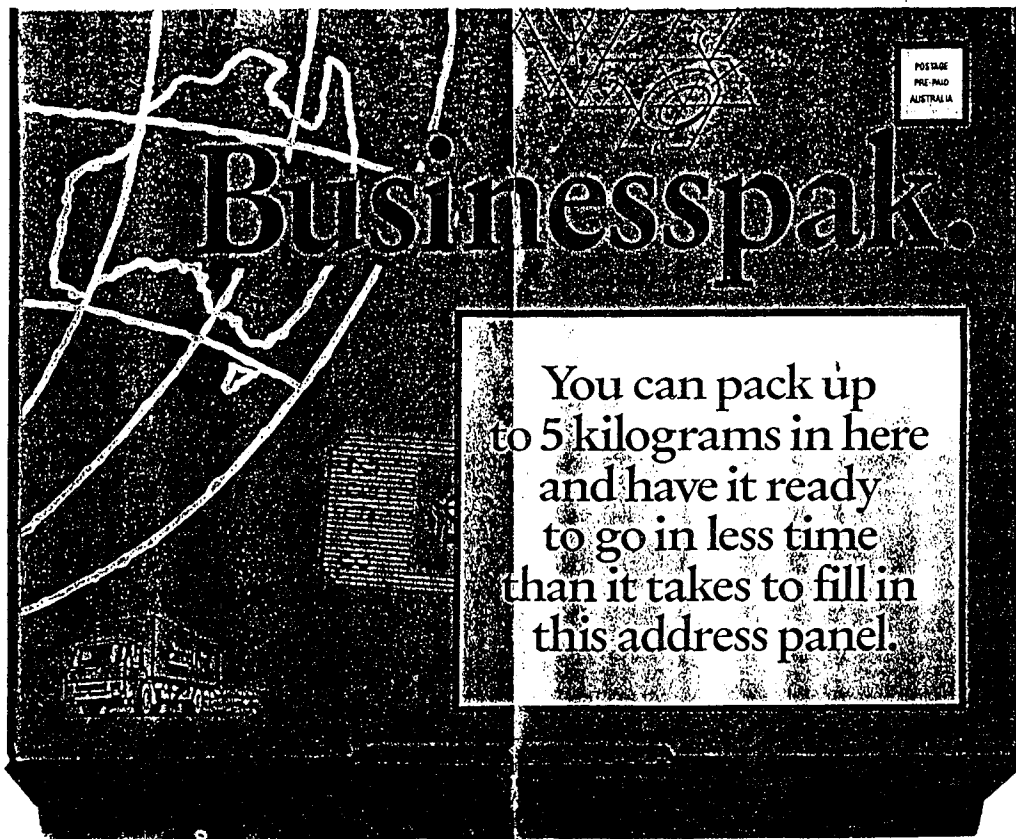
Following the introduction of the 'Giftpak' in November 1989 (see Capital Philately, February 1989), Australia Post issued a similar product called a 'Businesspak' on 26 February 1990. Like the Giftpak, the 'Businesspak' is a 'Postpak' box which prepays the postage on a 5 kilogram parcel anywhere in Australia, by surface mail, at a flat rate of \$7.50. The stamp area has no indication of value, merely being inscribed 'POSTAGE PRE-PAID AUSTRALIA.'

The box is the same size as the 'giftpak' but is brown with black lettering. The design includes items which might be sent in the box including a cassette, floppy disks, a clock, and a model ship as well as parcel post trucks a television, a drawing of a machine

part. a pair of scissors and a map of Australia.

Instructions on the use of the product are given in a panel on the reverse of the box and are similar to those for the 'Giftpak'. In addition, helpful packaging hints are given in a panel on the side of the box including instructions to individually wrap each item, to fill the box with packing material, to tape the box after it has been packed and to ask for advice from Australia Post staff on the packing of particular items. The release of the product was accompanied by an advertising campaign in major capital city newspapers.

While the 'Giftpak' was targeted at consumers posting presents the 'Businesspak', as its name suggests, is targeted at businesses and is available both from post offices and Australia Post sales representatives.



'Businesspak' - illustration used by Australia Post for advertising purposes (much reduced in size from the actual box).

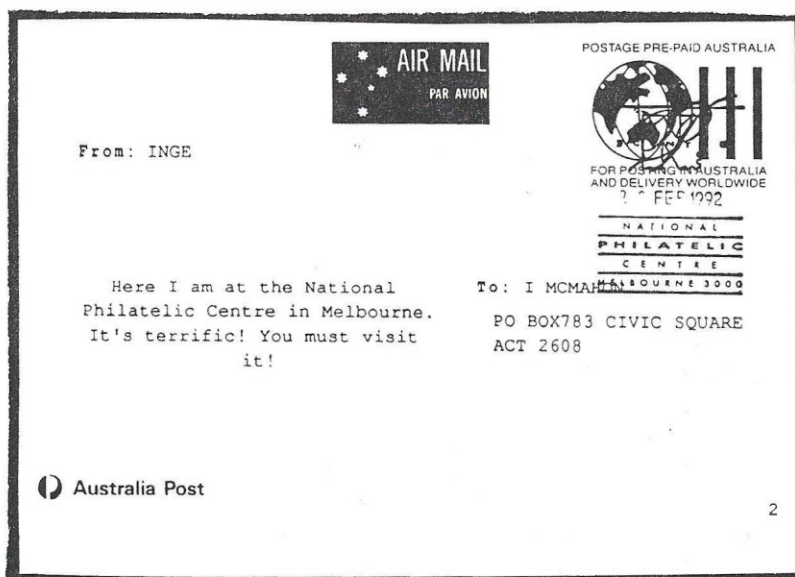
NATIONAL PHILATELIC CENTRE POSTCARDS

Ian McMahon

On 13 February 1991 Australia Post officially opened its National Philatelic Centre in Melbourne with the first public admission on 14 February. The Centre houses Australia Post's archival collection and features a display of post office artifacts including post office scales, a Cobb and Co coach and a working Pitney-Bowes slogan canceller where visitors can cancel their own mail. In addition the Centre houses the displays previously located in the Australia Post Philatelic Exhibition at the Canberra GPO.

At the associated post office, visitors can purchase National Philatelic Centre postcards with computer-generated messages. The cards are obtained by inserting a \$1.00 coin. The computer then provides instructions on how to add a message, the name of the sender, the addressee and the address to the card. These are done by selecting the appropriate command on the touch sensitive screen. For example, selection of the command 'sender' brings up a diagram of a keyboard on the screen which can then be used to enter the sender's name.

Two messages can be selected, 'Here I am at the National Philatelic Centre in Melbourne. It's terrific! You must visit it!' and 'Greetings from the National Philatelic Centre'. After the details have been entered, the computer enables the card to be previewed. Changes can then be made or the card printed. The cards can be printed without any messages or address details but will still receive a number in the lower right hand corner as the cards are numbered so the purchaser can ask at the post office counter for the cards they have prepared.



The reverse of the cards feature a full sheet of the 5/- green stamp, issued in 1932 to commemorate the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Centre's logo in gold, pink and black and the inscription 'National Philatelic Centre' in gold all on a green background. The card is non-denominated with the 'stamp' featuring the usual globe and three bars and the inscription 'POSTAGE PRE-PAID AUSTRALIA' and 'FOR POSTING IN AUSTRALIA AND DELIVERY WORLDWIDE'. While this the first occasion Australia has issued post cards of this nature, New Zealand has issued similar cards at philatelic exhibitions including New Zealand 90.

PREPAID EXPRESS COURIER SATCHELS

Ian McMahon

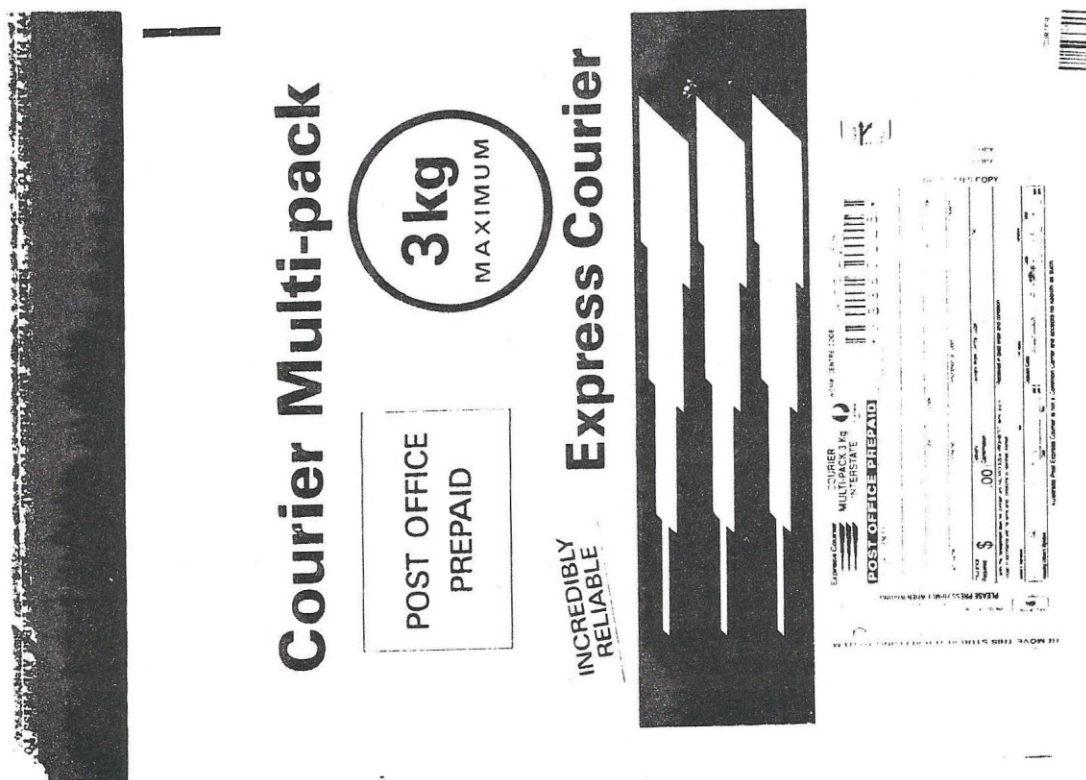
Australia Post has recently issued a range of prepaid express courier satchels. These come in three forms:

- . the *letterpack* which prepays courier delivery anywhere in Australia for up to 500g at a cost of \$8.50;
- . the *multi-pack* (illustrated below) which prepays courier delivery of up to 3kg at a cost of \$12 for delivery interstate; and
- . the *maxi-pack* which prepays delivery of up to 5kg anywhere in Australia for \$31.

The satchels are all printed in green on white plastic. The 'stamp' is not denominated but is inscribed 'Post Office Prepaid'. The satchels are printed on the reverse with information about the courier service. There is a form attached to the satchels which has space for information about the addressee, the sender and the contents. In addition the form is inscribed with the type of service for which payment has been made. The satchels provide overnight courier delivery to capital cities and other major centres.

These are the first prepaid satchels issued by Australia Post, and are similar to those issued in Canada, New Zealand and a number of other countries. Until now prepayment of express courier service required the purchase of prepaid adhesive labels which indicated the type of service.

In April Australia Post added the Express Post Satchel to its range of prepaid express post products. This satchel, similar in design to the express post envelopes, prepays delivery of up to 3kg to places on the express post network on a guaranteed overnight delivery basis at a cost of \$6.80



ADDRESS CORNERS ON POSTAGE PREPAID ENVELOPES

Ian McMahon

Although Australia ceased the practice of embossing private stationery in 1978, with the introduction of the National Parks postage prepaid envelopes in 1989 Australia Post introduced a service whereby purchasers of large quantities of envelopes could have their company name, address and logo printed in the upper right hand corner of the envelope.

A

A number of companies have taken advantage of this service which has continued into the present historic buildings pre-stamped envelopes. Unfortunately it is usually impossible to tell whether the company details on these envelopes have been printed by Australia Post or whether they have been added by the company after the purchase of regularly issued stationery.

The following list gives the names of some of the companies which appeared to have used this service. Most of the envelopes are of the DL size with a few C6 envelopes and a few of the larger sizes.

KEY

National Park Envelopes

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| C1 Cradle Mt | C2 Cradle Mt (with postcode Boxes) |
| C3 Cradle Mt (Recycled Paper) | |
| MF1 Millstream Falls | MF2 Millstream Falls (with postcode boxes) |
| MF3 Millstream Falls (Recycled Paper) | |
| K1 Kosciusko NP | K2 Kosciusko NP (Recycled Paper) |
| F Flinders Ranges (window envelope) | |
| W1 Wilson's Promontory | W2 Wilson's Promontory (Recycled Paper) |
| U Uluru NP | FR Fitzgerald River NP |

Historic Buildings Envelopes

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| C Charlotte St Terrace | G Glass Terrace |
| R Rose Seidler | |
| H1 Home Hill | H2 Home Hill (with postcode boxes) |
| M1 Miegunyah | |

Konica

Incorporated in NSW

COMPLETE BUSINESS MACHINES PTY LTD

2 BISHOPGATE STREET, WICKHAM 2293

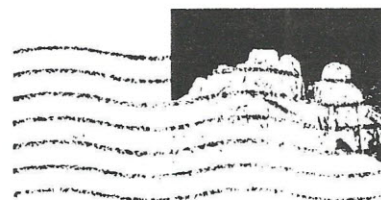
P.O. Box 766, Newcastle 2300

Telephone : (049) 62 3300

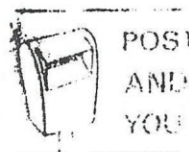


P.O. Box 54

Armidale NSW 2350



POSTAGE PAID
AUSTRALIA



POSTAGE PAID
AUSTRALIA

LIST OF USERS

AAMER Systems and Software, Fyshwick	C
Allcare Security, Adamstown	MF3
Argenton Engineering Supplies, Adamstown	K2, G
Armidale Golf Course	K2
Aspley Hotel, Walcha	C3
AT Flameproof Pty Ltd, Booleroo	C, C3, MF3
Atlas Chains, Wetherill Park	K2
Australian Racing Drivers Club	C3, MF3
Barry McKinnon and Co, Tamworth	K2
Bramco Lambton	MF3
Cessnock City Council	K2, F
Clark and Severn Electronics, Hornsby	K2, F
Coninan Platers, Georgetown	K2
Dawson and Post Rural Merchandise	MF3
Dixontech Pty Ltd, Wickham	K2, G
Enzed Service Centre, Wickham	K2, G
GCG Turbochargers (Northern), Mayfield	K2
Haden's, Taree	R
HCB Marine, Carrington	K2, G
HCB Marine, Booleroo	K2
Hunter Screen Products, Warners Bay	G
ICI, Cardiff	K2
Investment Publications Information Services, Surry Hills	H2
Keep Sailboarding, Belmont	MF2
Konica, Wickham	K2, C3
Madison Motor Inn, Charlestown	K2, MF3
Mendes Partners, Solicitors	K1
Minproc, Nedlands	U, M1, C2, MF2
Newcastle Auto Electrics	F
Novocastrian Wholesale Liquor, Broadmeadows	K2, C, C3, MF3
Novamarine Instruments	MF3
PO Box 123 Muswellbrook	K2
Postal Manager, Armidale	K2
Saddington, Broadmeadow	K2
Sulphide Welfare Club Cooperative, Booleroo	C
Stegbar Building Products, Mt Gravatt	U
Stelform Engineering, Charlestown	K2
Roger McKinnon & Co, Tamworth	K2
TAFE Open College Network, Redfern	W2, MF3
Taroela Braford Stud, Taroom	C3
T&H Metal Products, Wickham	K2
Tim's Glass, Cardiff	K2
Tip Top, Gateshead	K2
Tudor Poker Machines	MF3
Tulk Coninan, Hexham	K2
Vales Point power Station, Mannering Park	K1
Warkworth Mining Ltd, Singleton	K2
Waterman's Paint Supplies	K2
Wickham Industries, Wickham	C3, MF3

Acknowledgements

I thank Tim Cowley and Daryl Fuller for their assistance.

PREPAID POSTPAK PADDED ENVELOPES

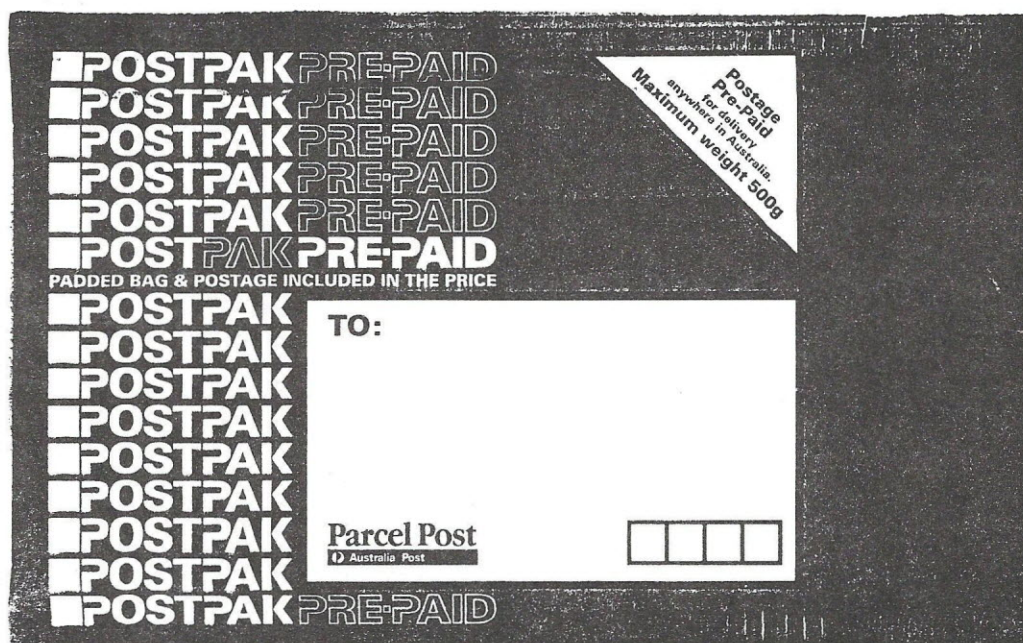
Ian McMahon

Just in time for Christmas 1992, Australia Post issued a range of prepaid 'POSTPAK' padded envelopes to add to its range of prepaid products which now includes envelopes, 'Postpak' boxes, express post envelopes and satchels, courier satchels and aerogrammes.

The padded envelopes, illustrated below, were issued in three sizes: 225 mm x 167 mm ('Size 1'), 275 mm x 230 mm ('Size 2') and 395 mm x 285 mm ('Size 5') and are sold for \$2.25, \$2.65 and \$3.35 respectively. The price covers the cost of the envelope itself as well as that of posting it to any destination in Australia by surface mail, provided that the envelope's weight does not exceed 500g.

The padded envelopes are printed in red and black. The 'stamp area' is inscribed 'Postage Pre-Paid for delivery anywhere in Australia. Maximum weight 500g'. The front of the box includes the text 'Postpak pre-paid', postcode squares and the parcel post logo. A barcode and the conditions of use of the envelopes are printed on the reverse.

Similar prepaid padded bags were issued by New Zealand in 1990. They are known as 'Handibags' and were issued in five sizes. The stamp area features a stylised map of New Zealand and is inscribed 'Post Paid'. The cost of the bags include the cost of postage to any New Zealand destination. A similar product, known as a 'Mail Pack', was issued by the United Kingdom on 27 October 1992. These bore the usual British non-denominational postal stationery stamps for either first or second class mail.



REPRINTS OF EXPRESS POST ENVELOPES AND SATCHELS AND AN UNUSUAL PREPAID EXPRESS COURIER SATCHEL

Ian McMahon

The Australian express post envelopes and satchels have now been reprinted with state-specific details of the express post service on the reverse. The original issue of the express post envelopes had a description of the nationwide express post network on the reverse. In contrast the reprints have details of the delivery schedule available from a particular state. For example, satchels sold in Victoria have details of the express post service provided if the satchel is used in Victoria. Consequently it is likely that each type of envelope will exist in six forms, although I have not yet seen all possible combinations. (New South Wales envelopes are sold in the Australian Capital Territory.)

The numbering system of the express post envelopes and satchels has also been changed to reflect the state of origin. Thus the \$6.80 satchels sold in New South Wales have numbers prefixed by 'SN' with satchels with prefix 'SQ' coming from Queensland, 'SS' from South Australia, 'SW' from Western Australia, 'ST' from Tasmania and 'SV' from Victoria. A similar numbering systems applies for each of the other types of envelopes and satchels so that the numbers of the New South Wales versions of the \$2.80, \$3.80 and \$4.80 envelopes are prefixed by 'CN', 'BN' and 'MN' respectively. One interesting feature of the New South Wales \$2.80 express post envelopes (Figure 1) is that it has the 'Sydney 2000' Logo, the logo being used to publicise Sydney's bid for the Olympic Games in the year 2000, printed on the front.

A further reprint of Express Post envelopes and satchels appeared during April and May. This reprint differs from earlier printings in that the self-adhesive label (Figure 2) used to indicate that the satchel has been used has been redesigned. This label now has two detachable self-adhesive strips. One has the satchel number printed on it for the sender to detach and keep for his records. The other has a barcode printed on it and, when detached by Australia Post, indicates that the satchel has been used by uncovering the words 'Postage cancelled'. Earlier printings had a single detachable strip. I have so far seen such reprints from New South Wales (\$2.80 and \$6.80 envelopes with the 'Sydney 2000' logo), Victoria (\$2.80 and \$3.80 envelopes (no logo) and a \$6.80 satchel with the 'Sydney 2000' logo which was on sale at the GPO Brisbane!) and Queensland (\$2.80, \$4.80 and \$6.80 envelopes and satchels (no logo), a \$6.80 satchel with the 'Sydney 2000' logo and on a different type of plastic with 'NOMAD COURIER BAG' and the date 3/93 under the flap and a similar satchel but without the logo and dated 5/93).

An Unusual Prepaid Courier Satchel

I have previously described the range of prepaid courier satchels sold by Australia Post ('Capital Philately' August 1992). Figure 3 shows an Australia Post pre-paid Express Courier satchel which appears to have been issued in conjunction with Australian Air Express, a private courier firm. Unlike the regularly issued satchels, both the Australia Post and Australian Air Express logos appear on the consignment note. The satchel prepays delivery of up to 500g by express courier anywhere in Australia

including delivery by Australia Post. The inscription 'Post Office Prepaid' appears in a circle on the reverse. (Australian Air Express is one of a number of companies contracted by Australia Post to carry courier items.) I have also seen an Australian Air Express self-adhesive label prepaying carriage of 3 kg intrastate which is also inscribed 'Post Office Prepaid' and has been used on a parcel posted at the Sydney GPO.



Figure 1



SENDER TO KEEP
SN564797

Figure 2

Australian air Express



Courier **Letterpack**

Australian air Express 500g COURIER LETTERPACK POST OFFICE PREPAID		RECEIVED * F A 1 3 2 5 7 4 *
U.N.E. Office COURIER P.O. Box 983 Sydney NSW 2000		The Director-General SECRETARY D.E.E.T. Canberra A.C.T. 2600
DATE: 26.2.93 TIME: 11:35		RECEIVERS COPY

500g



• No insurance cover is applicable for satchels
 • Conditions of carriage as per the reverse of the consignment note attached. A.C.N. 054 307 336.
This satchel must not contain dangerous goods

EXPRESS POST PARCELS

Ian McMahon

In July 1995 Australia Post introduced a Express Post service which enables parcels to be delivered overnight to destinations on the Express Post network for an \$8.00 express post charge plus a charge based on the weight of the parcel.

Parcels are required to have an Express Post self adhesive label affixed. The label, shown below at a reduced size, is similar in design to the Express Post envelopes and satchels. The labels are not however, prepaid with the parcel having to be taken to a post office, weighed and adhesive stamps affixed before being posted.



For any Parcel
Maximum Weight 20kg

 Australia Post

SENDER
Company Name
Contact Name
Telephone ()
Address
Suburb or Town
State Postcode

Express Post Parcel

Guaranteed Next Day Delivery

Affix
Stamps
Here

To: Company Name
For urgent
Attention of Telephone ()
PO Box Number
or Street Address
Suburb
or Town
State

No Dangerous Goods Declaration
Sender's Signature
I hereby certify that this article does not contain any dangerous or prohibited goods,
eg. Explosives, Flammables, Corrosives, Aerosols, etc.
Parcels without this declaration completed will not be forwarded.
* If in doubt ask at any Post Office. * A false declaration is a criminal offence.

Postcode
* Over specified routes.
Conditions apply -
see tear off panel for details

CUSTOMER
RECEIPT  Australia Post

How To Post Express Post Parcels
There are no forms to fill out; simply address, attach label to parcel, pay postage and post - by close of business at most Post Offices in the places included in the Express Post networks.

Guaranteed Next Day Delivery
The Guarantee: Next business day delivery is guaranteed over the specified routes printed on the back of this label, if the parcel is posted correctly on any business day Monday to Friday (see Note). If we do not deliver as promised, your postage will be refunded.

Note:
The carriage of parcels is subject to the General Postal Services Terms and Conditions.
Dangerous goods prohibited from carriage by post must not be posted.
Express Post parcels posted without a signed No Dangerous Goods Declaration will not be forwarded. Parcels posted otherwise incorrectly will be carried without guarantee.

WARNING! Not to be used for the carriage of cash, gold, jewellery, precious stones, negotiable securities or other valuables. Australia Post accepts no responsibility and will not be liable for any loss of, or damage to such items.

To:

Ref No:

PN 047105

\$
AMOUNT OF POSTAGE

The labels have a receipt portion with space for a post office datestamp and an indication of the postage paid, while the label carries the usual warnings regarding sending dangerous or valuable items. All the Express Post envelopes and satchels have recently been reissued with the warning *'Not to be used for the carriage of cash, gold jewellery, precious stones or other valuables. Australia Post accepts no responsibility and will not be liable for any loss, or damage to such items'*.

Overnight delivery is guaranteed for any destination on the Express Post network, which from Canberra is any of the state capitals (for Perth this is only to the central business district).

LEEWARD ISLANDS POSTAL STATIONERY- PART 1

Darryl Fuller

The Leeward Islands are part of the British West Indies and comprised five presidencies Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica (until 31 December 1939), Montserrat, St Kitts (including St Christopher Nevis and Anguilla, and the British Virgin Islands. They are no longer a political entity although at least once in the last decade I have read a newspaper report about a re-formation.

The individual islands came under the Leeward Islands administration on 21 August 1871, as a Federal Colony, but it was not until the 1890s that Leeward Islands stamps and stationery were issued. The individual islands did not have a large usage of stamps and it was decided that a single issue of stamps and stationery for use in all the islands would be more economical than individual issues. This was not acted upon until 1890 when new stamps were issued using the key plate concept developed by De La Rue. All previous issues for the individual islands were invalidated and the remainders were sold off at face value or above by tender. The Leeward Islands are unique, as far as I know, in using the key plate concept for all reigns from Queen Victoria through to Queen Elizabeth. The use of the key plates and in particular the numerous errors occurring on the KGVI issues have led to a considerable interest in the stamps of the Leeward Islands over the years. The stamps cover the period from 1890 through to 1 July 1956 when the stamps of the Leeward Islands were invalidated and the Leeward Islands was dissolved as a political unit. The fact that Leeward Islands issues run from late QV through to early QEII has made the islands a popular area to collect because there are virtually no expensive and rare early QV issues and no later QEII mass produced 'jam labels' of which Antigua and Barbuda are so fond of producing. However, philatelic usage was common and commercial usage attracts a significant premium.

The stamps and stationery of 1890 replaced all the individual issues and the islands found, after a couple of years, that their once significant philatelic income had dropped dramatically. This caused some concern and it was decided that the individual islands could begin to issue their own stamps once more but the Leeward Islands Federal issues would continue to be issued concurrently. This caused some concern with philatelists but created great interest because combinations of the issues could be found used on cover. I am uncertain if the Leeward Islands are unique in having dual issues sold simultaneously (as opposed to dual language) but the period of use, from 1902 to 1956, probably does make them unique because it was not a transient concept. The aim was to raise philatelic income. The Council governing the Leeward Islands approved, in 1898, a special issue of Virgin Islands stamps which were issued in January 1899. The other islands followed suit in 1902 when King Edward VII came to the throne and there was a general issue of stamps and stationery for all of the islands.

This introduction is necessary in order to appreciate the factors involved in the issue of the stamps and stationery, particularly the political and philatelic motives. The account of the postal stationery is presented by reign rather than type. This is because much of the interest arises from changing patterns of use of the different types. The Leeward Islands are typical of many small British Empire colonies

RECENT AUSTRALIAN POSTAL CARDS

Ian McMahon

Australia Post in recent years has been prolific in issuing postal cards (or pre-paid postcards). These cards are non-denominated but have a 'stamp area' which is inscribed 'Postage Pre-Paid Australia - For posting in Australia and Delivery Worldwide'. At the present time postal cards are issued in the form of maximum cards for each adhesive issue and, in addition, for some issues postal cards have an illustration of one of the adhesive stamps of the issue printed on the reverse of the postcard. The latter postal cards are sold for \$1 each and, except for some of the first issues, are not listed in *The Philatelic Bulletin*.

In addition to these, Australia Post has recently issued four groups of postal cards which have not been widely advertised in the philatelic literature. These are a set of pictorial post cards, a card for the Lunar New Year, a series of cards with overprints for Queensland towns and series depicting Australian Olympians.

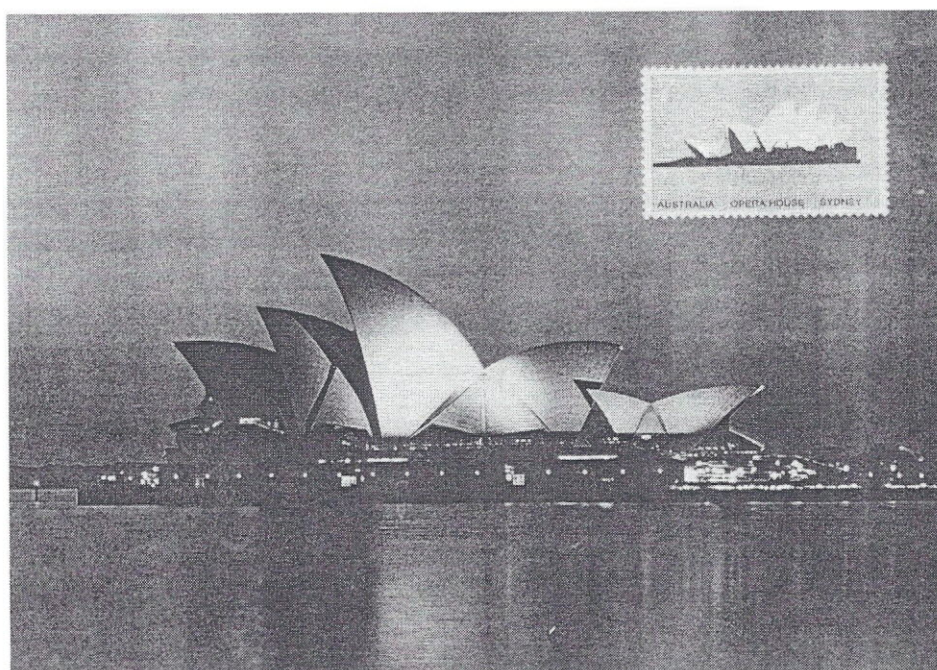


Figure 1 Pictorial pre-paid postcards - the Sydney Opera House (size reduced)

Pictorial Postcards

Australia Post released a series of 35 state specific pictorial postal cards during December 1995 and January 1996. The cards have the usual postage paid imprint on the front and a full colour picture on the reverse illustrated with a stamp related to the picture, Figure 1. Six cards were issued for New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, four for South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia, three for the ACT and two for the Northern Territory. Only cards with views from a given state were issued in that state, an exception was that ACT cards were also distributed in New South Wales.

Lunar New Year

On 9 January 1996, Australia Post issued a postal card for the Lunar New Year. The reverse of the card depicted a Chinese dragon. The card was issued in conjunction with the Christmas Island Lunar New Year stamps but is inscribed 'Postage Paid Australia' and makes no mention of Christmas Island.

Queensland Tourist Overprints

Sets of the five Underwater World pre-paid postcards and the 50c koala postcard were overprinted for sale in a number of Queensland locations, the overprint incorporates the name of the town or region. They were issued for the following city/tourist areas (no koala card was issued for the Great Barrier Reef):

- Brisbane
- Gold Coast
- Sunshine Coast
- Townsville
- Cairns
- Great Barrier Reef

In addition, cards from the Whales issue have been produced with a 'Greetings from Hervey Bay' overprint.

Australia Post

Thank-you for
your well wishes
and support

- Nicole



Australia Post is proud to support
Australia's Olympians.

This card features Nicole Stevenson,
our employee and champion back-
stroke swimmer who is an Olympic
Bronze medallist and winner of four
Gold medals and a Silver medal at
the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

Photos supplied by Sport - The Library



Figure 2 The Nicole Stevenson postcard, issued after the 1994 Commonwealth Games.
Front and back (at reduced size)

Olympic Athletes Postcards

Completely unannounced, Australia Post released a number of postal cards depicting Australian Olympic athletes, the cards were provided to the athletes concerned for use in responding to letters from fans. The front of the cards is inscribed 'Thank you for your well wishes and support', and

Capital Philately

'Australia Post is proud to support Australia's Olympians'. The cards also have the standard Australian postage paid imprint. They were not sold through post offices, except for a small number that were reputedly sold at a special post office for the Stawell Gift in 1994, an athletic event held every Easter at Stawell in Victoria. To date, six cards are known. These comprise:

- Cards likely to have been issued before the 1994 Commonwealth Games, the text makes no mention of the 1994 Commonwealth Games:
 - - Cathy Freeman on the track at the World Athletics Championship, Stuttgart 1993
 - - Nicole Stevenson in the pool, at the 1992 Olympic Games.
- Cards issued after the Commonwealth Games; the text refers, for individual athletes, to the medals won at the 1994 Commonwealth Games:
 - - Cathy Freeman at the 1994 Commonwealth Games
 - - Nicole Stevenson at the 1994 Commonwealth Games, illustrated in Figure 2
 - - Cathy Freeman on the track
 - - collage of Olympic athletes employed by Australia Post.

It seems likely that the second group of cards will be used by Australia Post as part of an Olympic promotion in conjunction with Atlanta 96.

Official Postcards for Mail from Santa

Also of note is that before Christmas Australia Post set up post boxes in many post offices for mail to Santa. Children writing to Santa were sent an official postcard in reply. Different cards seemed to have been used in each state.

Only one stamp magazine provides
the complete coverage "down under"

Stamp News

AUSTRALASIA

Australasia's leading magazine

The leader for news
The leader for comment
The leader for circulation
The greatest coverage of Australian
and Pacific news of any Stamp Magazine
in the World

Sample copy, subscriptions and
advertising rates on request.

All major credit cards accepted.

Stamp News Australasia

PO Box 1410,
Dubbo, NSW, 2830, Australia



Figure 2 The smaller internal and international registered mail envelopes, reduced in size.

Options for the internal service include insurance (\$1.00 per \$100 insured), delivery confirmation (\$1.40) and person-to-person delivery (\$4.00). Only the delivery confirmation option is available for international registered mail. The international envelopes cannot be used for sending stamps or other valuables and if insurance over \$100.00 is required the item must be sent as insured mail.

The question has to be asked as to whether the present registration service is the same as the Security Post service it replaced? Unfortunately, it is not. While the new service requires the sender to sign for the item and provides proof of sending, it does not treat registered letters separately from ordinary postal items and, in contrast to Security Post, it does not provide any additional security. In that sense the new registration service is really a re-named Certified Mail service with the Security Post service having been abolished.

Also of interest is the treatment of incoming international registered mail. Australia now adds one of two labels to each item, either a blue label which states that signature is required or an orange and red label stating that a signature is required, these two styles are illustrated in Figure 3. I have yet to discover the basis on which Australia Post decides whether or not a signature is required for such international registered letters.

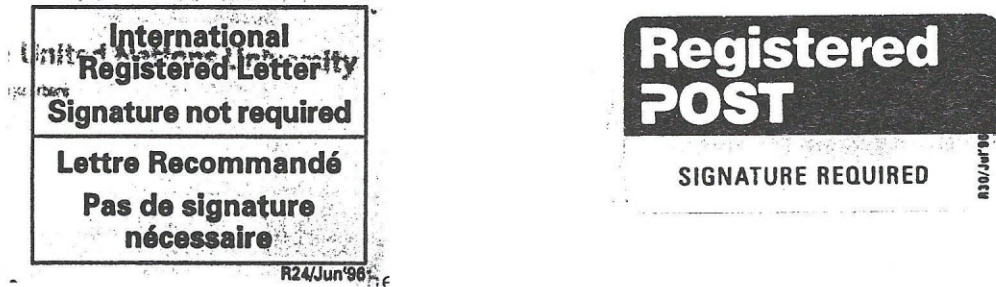


Figure 3. The two styles of instruction label used on incoming international registered mail.

Large users of certified mail often print a certified mail 'label' directly onto their envelopes. Such users will now need to order new stationery with a printed registered mail 'label'. Figure 4 illustrates a cover from Toyota that shows a registered 'label' printed next to an obliterated certified mail 'label'.

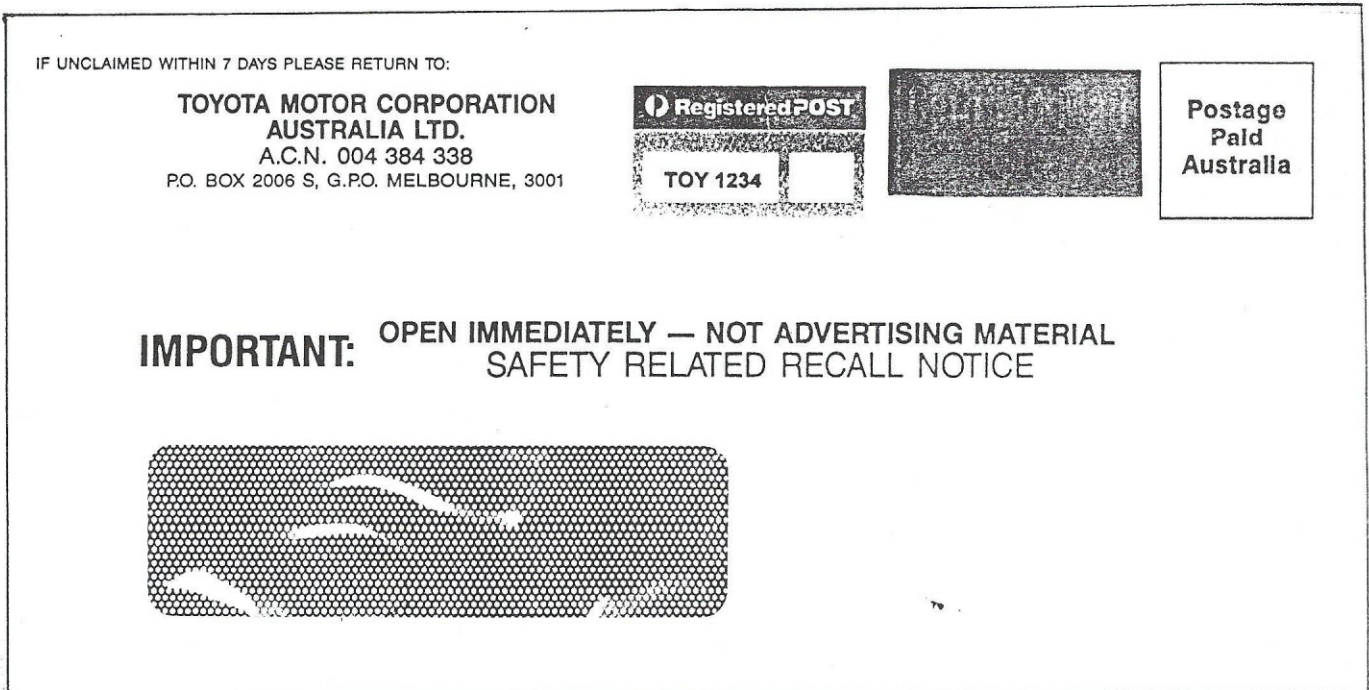


Figure 4 A printed certified mail label, obliterated and replaced with a printed registered label (reduced size).

REINTRODUCTION OF STAMPED POSTCARDS BY NEW ZEALAND

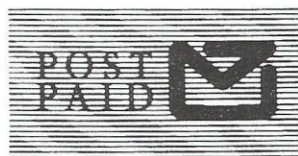
Ian McMahon

In 1980 New Zealand withdrew stamped postcards from general sale as a result of declining usage, although postcards continued to be used for the pictorial datestamp service. On 16 August 1994, New Zealand released a set of pictorial postcards in conjunction with the wild animals issue of adhesive stamps. A second set of postcards was issued on 22 February 1995 in conjunction with the night lights issue. Both sets of postal cards were available mint or used as maximum cards with the appropriate cancelled stamps on the reverse. Like the Australia Post maximum cards, the New Zealand ones can still be used for postage. They were non-denominated and paid postage to anywhere in the world at the postcard rate. The 'stamp area' is inscribed 'POST PAID' together with 'No postage required if posted anywhere in New Zealand'. In addition the cards had the New Zealand Post 'Stamps' logo on the front.

The wild animals card had full colour pictures on the reverse and featured the same animals as the adhesive stamps: polar bear, zebra, african elephant, siberian tiger, lion, giraffe, giant panda, spider monkey, hippopotamus and white rhinoceros. The cards sold at \$10 for a set of maximum cards and \$5.50 for a set of postcards. A set of six postcards were issued for the night scenes series. These featured a view of the cities that were illustrated on the accompanying adhesives on the reverse of the card: Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Rotorua and Queenstown. They were sold for \$8.10 as postcards and \$9.75 as maximum cards.

A third set of six will be released on 3 May 1995 in conjunction with the Maori Language issue. These will feature full colour pictures of Maoris on the reverse of the card to match the subject of the adhesive stamps: *Treasure Language Nest, Sing to Awaken the Spirit, Acquire Knowledge Through Stories, The Welcoming Call, Recite the Genealogies That Link People, Tell the Love of The People.*

spider monkey
(Number 3 in a set of 10)



TO: _____



THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Recent years have seen an increase in interest in all aspects of postal stationery collecting. This is noticeable in our Society as well as elsewhere in Australia and overseas. One example is the Great Australian Stationery Challenge (GASC), the brain child of our own Ed Druce. This comprises over twenty collectors throughout Australia who have accepted the challenge to take up a new postal stationery collecting interest for exhibition in early 1996. The list of collectors has now closed but the challenges, which must represent a new collecting interest and be of the modern period, include Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand and (used) Australian illustrated post cards. Apart from the GASC, the postal stationery of the Australian States and the of the Commonwealth period offer a wide range of material and, for the specialist, the excitement of additional research. With the possible exception of Western Australia, the postal stationery of the Australian States is far from fully researched.

Thus it is a special pleasure to announce the formation of a new society for Australian postal stationery collectors. This is THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

The initial office bearers are Ian McMahon as Convenor and Judy Kennett as Secretary/Treasurer. There are also convenors in each of the State and Territories (except for the Northern Territory). The initial annual subscription is a very modest \$10.00 and Ian or Judy would be delighted to either receive your subscription or provide further information. It is intended that the membership will be nationwide and while it is an Australian society members interests need not be confined to Australia.

With a geographically dispersed membership there is the need for a journal and it is intended that there will be four issues a year, the first will appear in about May of this year, with the deadline for the second issue at the end of August. Ian McMahon, who is the foundation editor, would be delighted to hear from any potential contributors. The title of the journal has been decided and it is *The Postal Stationery Collector - Journal of the Postal Stationery Society of Australia*. As the subscription includes all issues of the journal, the \$10.00 is even more of a bargain! Initially the journal will have a modest form of production but that does not mean that the quality of the articles is of any less significant.

It is hoped that meetings of the Postal Stationery Society of Australia will be held at all national and state level exhibitions. It is likely that our own Society's postal stationery study group will act as a local branch although any of our own members would be welcome regardless or not of their membership of the new Society.

So I encourage you to speak or write to Ian or Judy, find out more about the new Society and then find \$10.00 to become a founder member. You do not need to be a specialist, an interest in postal stationery is enough. The contact addresses are:

Convenor/Editor: Ian McMahon, PO Box 783, Civic Square, ACT 2608
Secretary/Treasurer Judy Kennett, PO Box 260, Jamison, ACT 2614.

Dingle Smith

INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS POST ENVELOPES

Ian McMahon

In March 1994, Australia Post extended its express post service to international mail and issued two pre-paid international express post envelopes, a C5 (229mm by 162mm) envelope at \$9.80 and a B4 (353mm by 250mm) at \$14.00.

The envelopes prepay air mail postage to anywhere in the world for 500g up to a thickness of 22mm. Australia Post guarantees dispatch overseas by the next business day where international flights are available and if the envelope is posted in the special express envelope post boxes in the state capitals and other major cities. The next day service is available to over 140 countries. The envelopes are intended for documents only, no goods are permitted alleviating the need for customs documentation.

The envelopes are made of cardboard and printed in blue, red and gold. The stamp area features a globe and is inscribed 'POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA' AND 'Air Mail Express - Par Avion Express'. Self adhesive numbered tabs are provided to enable the post office to keep track of the envelopes.

To encourage initial use of the service a two-for-one offer was made available until 30 April and a purchase of ten or more enabled the purchaser to enter a competition for a trip to Canada to see the Commonwealth Games.



Express Post International



Urgent Documents



To: _____

Country of Destination: _____

SENDER'S DECLARATION Sender's Signature _____ Date _____
I hereby certify that this envelope contains letters and documents and does not contain any dangerous or prohibited goods,* eg. Explosives, Flammables, Corrosives, Aerosols, etc. I understand that carriage is subject to the General Postal Services Terms and Conditions.
* If in doubt ask at any Post Office. A false declaration is a criminal offence.
THIS DECLARATION MUST BE SIGNED.

For Letters and Documents only.
Max Weight 500g
Max Thickness 20mm

 Australia Post