

Newcastle on Stamps

The first issue of postage stamps which highlighted the city of Newcastle was issued on Wednesday 10 September 1947. The issue commemorated the 150th anniversary of the foundation of Newcastle.

The 2½ d and the 3½ d stamps were designed and engraved by F D Manley, a leading Australian stamp designer and engraver. The 5½ d stamp was designed by G Lissenden, and engraved by G Lissenden and F Manley. These were among the last Australian stamps to be printed by engraving.

One of the most outstanding errors in Australian stamps is shown on the 2½ d stamp. It shows the wrong portrait. The Post Office staff researched through the records of the Mitchell Library in Sydney, and found a portrait of 'John Shortland'. This portrait was used on the stamp. Unfortunately both father and son were Lieutenant John Shortland, both in the Royal Navy, and both travelled on the First Fleet.

A week before the issue of the stamp, images of the stamps were published in newspapers. It was then pointed out that the portrait was of the son of John Shortland, who was also named John Shortland. The father was the explorer who explored the site of Newcastle, and the stamp shows his son. This added a lot of interest to the stamps, which sold well to collectors and other interested people. These stamps are commonly found in old stamp albums and bulk lots of stamps.

Images of the stamps are shown at 400%.



The other stamps in this issue show the two industries that Newcastle was famous for at this time: steel making and exporting coal.



Note that the second steam crane in this image is missing part of the cables which enables the crane to lift the coal hopper.

The uses of these stamps were:

2½ d = basic letter rate within Australia and the British Commonwealth (by surface mail, air mail was extra), and the postcard rate to foreign countries

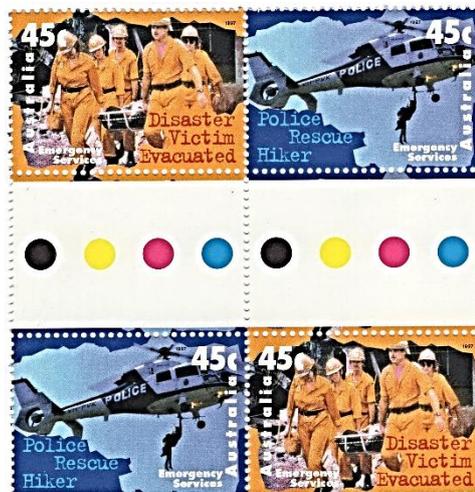
3½ d = letter rate to foreign countries, and the commercial papers rate to foreign countries

5½ d = combined registration and postage, also the combined air mail and letter rate within Australia.

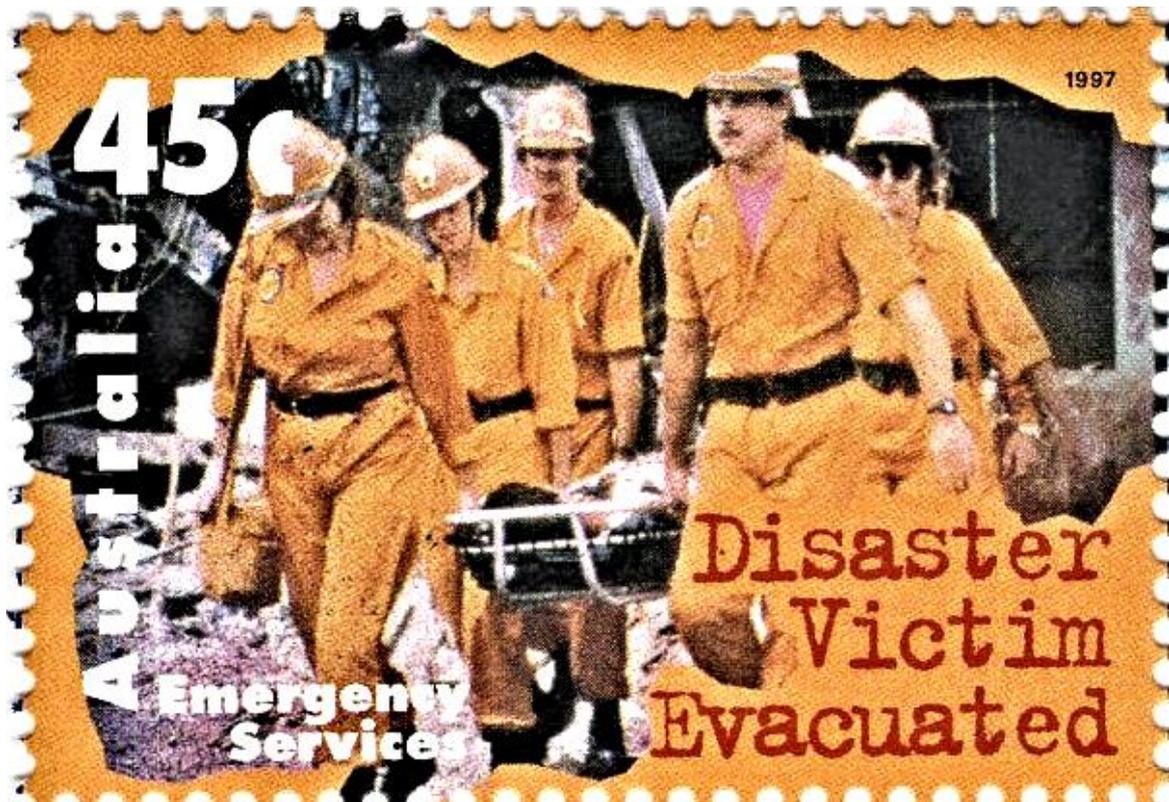
These stamps are readily available from stamp dealers. Mint stamps (unused with gum) sell for a couple of dollars a set, depending on condition and how well centred the stamps are.

Emergency Services Issue

On Thursday 10 July 1997 a special issue was released which paid tribute to Australia's emergency services issue. The issue included two 45c se-tenant stamps, a \$1.05 value and a \$1.20 value. Although never officially stated, it is claimed that the 'Disaster Victim Evacuated' stamp showed emergency service workers at the Newcastle Workers Club after the earthquake on Thursday 28 December 1989.



The image above shows both se-tenant stamps with the 'traffic light' dots in the gutter, or blank strip, between the stamps. The dots show the colours used in printing these stamps, and allowed a quick method of ensuring that no colour was missing.

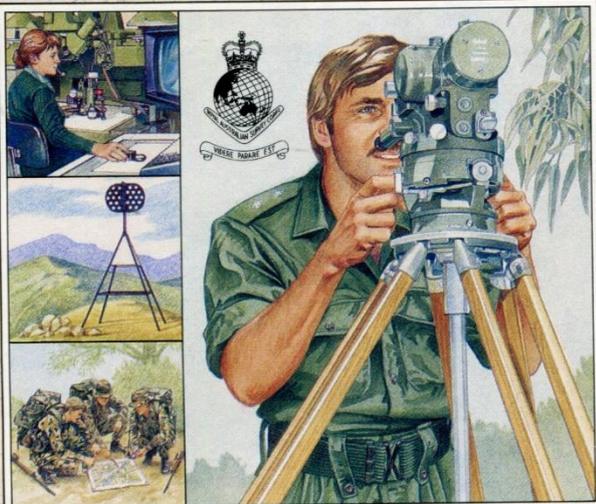


These stamps are readily available, selling for a few dollars a set.

Pre-stamped envelope

In 1990 Australia Post issued a pre-stamped envelope commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Royal Australian Survey Corps. In the stamp impression is a map of the Newcastle suburb Mayfield.

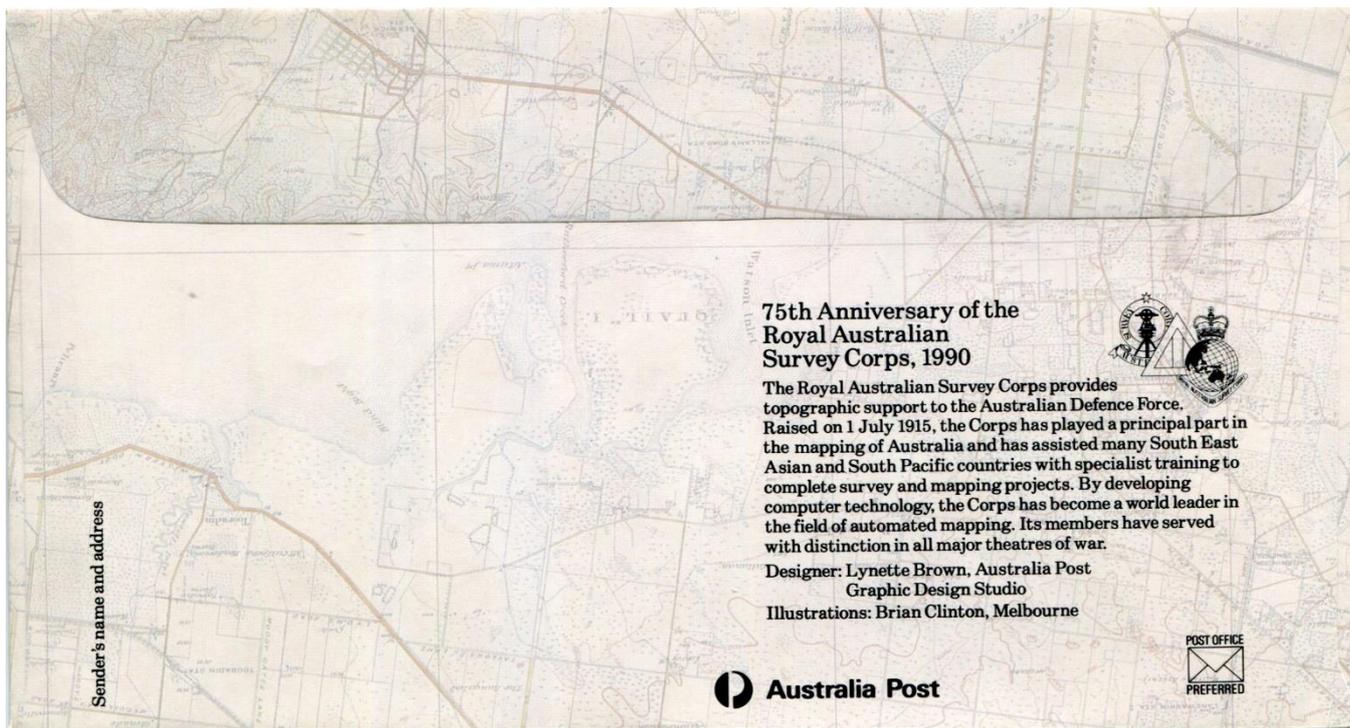
75th ANNIVERSARY 1990



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS



Australia 41c



**75th Anniversary of the
Royal Australian
Survey Corps, 1990**



The Royal Australian Survey Corps provides topographic support to the Australian Defence Force. Raised on 1 July 1915, the Corps has played a principal part in the mapping of Australia and has assisted many South East Asian and South Pacific countries with specialist training to complete survey and mapping projects. By developing computer technology, the Corps has become a world leader in the field of automated mapping. Its members have served with distinction in all major theatres of war.

Designer: Lynette Brown, Australia Post
Graphic Design Studio
Illustrations: Brian Clinton, Melbourne

Sender's name and address

 **Australia Post**



The map of Mayfield probably dates from the 1880s. The road running from top left to the bottom right corner is Maitland Road, and the road at right angles to it (from bottom left corner to top) is Hanbury Street. The area is now fully settled.



Vineyard Regions

A special issue, released Thursday 9 April 1992, featured the Vineyard Regions of Australia. One of the stamps featured the vineyards of the Hunter Valley.

