

New Zealand Air Mail Stamps

1931- 1934 Air Mail Issues

Airmail stamps may have been issued sooner if early postal delivery trials by air within New Zealand had been more successful. However, in 1922 it was concluded that the aircraft in use were unsuited to long-distance flights and the trial service was not well patronised by the public. It was overseas developments which eventually prompted the 1931 issue. [Virtual New Zealand Stamps](#)



Date of Issue	10 th November 1931
Catalogue No	CPV1a – V5a
Designer:	L C Mitchell, Wellington
Printer:	Government Printing Office Wellington
Stamps size:	40mm x 24mm
Sheet Size:	120 Stamps per sheet
Paper	Cowan Chalk Surfaced
Process:	Surface Printed -Typography
Watermark	NZ and star watermark
Perforation	14 x 14.5: Some 3d 14 x 15

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At the Universal Postal Union Convention in 1929, an international agreement was drawn up where mail that was posted in New Zealand could utilise airmail services in Australia, Canada, North America and the Karachi-London service. This agreement came into force in July 1930 and it was soon realised that stamps would be required.. [Virtual New Zealand Stamps](#)

1931 3d Perf 14x14.25 CP V1a (2) Dark Chocolate



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Surcharging the threepence King George V stamp for airmail services was considered but this was abandoned in favour of a new issue for mail flown over part of its route abroad. The design by L.C. Mitchell was officially described as '*an aircraft flying over a typical New Zealand lake scene.*' . [Virtual New Zealand Stamps](#)

1931 4d Perf 14x14.25 CP V2a

Dark Chocolate



1931 7d Perf 14x14.25 CP V3a

Brown Orange



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1931 - Airmail Provisional.

A series of internal airmail flights were planned within New Zealand on December 1931 with a special fee of 3d in addition to the standard 2d postage rate. To make up the combined postage rate, a red surcharge was overprinted on a special printing of the 3d airmail stamp in a new colour. . [Virtual New Zealand Stamps](#)

1931 5d Perf 14x14.25 CP V4a

Yellow Green



1934 - Trans-Tasman Air Mail.

In 1934 the last airmail stamp in the 1931 Airmail design was printed, this time in blue with TRANS-TASMAN AIR MAIL "FAITH IN AUSTRALIA" over-printed on it. This stamp was issued for one month to commemorate C.T.P. Ulm's first official trans-Tasman airmail flight from New Zealand to Australia. Only 83 thousand stamps were issued but many were collected. [Virtual New Zealand Stamps](#)

1934 7d Perf 14x14.25 CP V4a

Yellow Green



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1935 Air Mail Issue

In 1935 a new set of airmail stamps replaced the 1931 designs. James Berry was requested to prepare a new design of an aircraft landing at Bell Block aerodrome, New Plymouth. The design was based on a photograph taken by A H Blennerhasset on 12 April 1934, of the first official airmail from Australia to New Zealand arriving at New Plymouth on the 'Faith in Australia'. The cost of airmail delivery was dropping and at the end of 1934, the first internal airmail services began operating between Hokitika and Okuru in Westland, charging standard postal rates. By 1938, airmail rates between New Zealand, Britain and most of the British Empire were fixed at 1½d per half an ounce and the use of special airmail stamps ceased shortly afterwards. [Virtual New Zealand Stamps](#)



Date of Issue	4 th May 1935
Catalogue No	CPV6a – V6c
Designer:	J Berry, Wellington
Printer:	Government Printing Office Wellington
Stamps size:	40mm x 23mm
Sheet Size:	60 Stamps per sheet
Paper	Cowan Esparto
Process:	Recess Printed - Intaglio
Watermark	NZ and star watermark
Perforation	14

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1935 Air Mail Issue

1935 1d Perf 14

CP V6a(1)

Deep Carmine



1935 1d Perf 14

CP V6a(2)

Carmine



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1935 Air Mail Issue

1935 1d Perf 14

CP V6a(3)

Carmine Pink



New Zealand Air Mail Stamps

1935 Air Mail Issue

1935 1d Perf 14

CP V6a(4)

Carmine Red



1935 3d Perf 14

CP V6b(1)

Deep Violet



New Zealand Air Mail Stamps

1935 Air Mail Issue

1935 3d Perf 14

CP V6b(3)

Purple



New Zealand Air Mail Stamps

1935 Air Mail Issue

1935 6d Perf 14 CP V6c(1) Dull Blue



1935 6d Perf 14 CP V6c(4) Deep Dull Blue



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1958 Diamond Jubilee of Great Barrier Pigeon Post

Great Barrier Island is the largest island in the Hauraki Gulf, laying only 65 miles (105Km) from Auckland City. The island can be seen from Auckland on a clear day, it is that close, but back in the 1800s, it was isolated with no communication other than by sea with an irregular ship service. When in 1894, the Northern Steamship Company's ship SS Wairarapa hit the northern end of the island with the loss of 121 lives, the news took several days to reach Auckland. It highlighted the need for better communication between the island and the mainland. The Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency was created in early 1897 with a purpose of providing a mail service using pigeons. The letters carried, known as flimsies, were written on extremely lightweight paper. A few months later, on 14th May 1897, a rival pigeon mail service was established under the name of The Original Great Barrier Pigeongram Service. The two companies, commonly known as the 'Agency' and the 'Service', would continue competing with each other until 1908 when a telephone cable was laid between the island and the mainland. Quickly, both companies began issuing stamps. These stamps are not considered official postage stamps because they were issued by private companies, therefore they are not usually listed in catalogues of New Zealand Stamps. We would probably know them as 'Local Post' but back then they were just 'private stamps'. [Virtual NZ Stamps](#)

