New Zealand
Government Life Insurance

Government Life stamps

When the NZ Post was first set up in New Zealand in 1840, Government departments were allowed to send their letters through the post without having to pay anything. Later, special stamps were issued to Government departments to put on their letters. These were simply ordinary stamps overprinted with the word 'Official'.
One Government Department that always had to pay postage was the Government Life Insurance Department. In 1891 special stamps were issued for this department and they showed a lighthouse with the words 'State Security' written on the rays from the lighthouse.
Then, in 1947, James Berry designed some new Government Life Insurance Department stamps which pictured New Zealand lighthouses and the famous Eddystone beacon off the Cornish coast in Great Britain.
New Zealand *Government Life Insurance* stamps were withdrawn from use on 30 September 1989 when Government Life became the Tower Corporation. NZ Post History

Date of Issue	2nd January 1891
Catalogue No:	CPS108a/SG 883
Designer:	WB Hudson & JF Rogers
Printer:	Government Printing Office Wellington
Stamps size:	22mm x 20mm
Sheet Size:	240 stamps per sheet (4 panes of 60)
Paper	De La Rue, Cowan
Process:	Surface Printed -Typography
Watermark	NZ and star watermark
Perforation	Various
Period Sale:	Withdrawn from sale January 1907

Government Life stamps

The New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department was opened in 1869 and started issuing its own stamps in 1891. Up until that time The Insurance Office, in common with other Government services, had enjoyed franking privileges, paying an annual amount to the Post and Telegraph Department to cover the cost of postage on its correspondence.

The decision to issue the stamps was the result of a dispute between the two Departments regarding the calculation of postage costs. The matter was referred to an arbitrator but the Insurance Department insisted on paying future postage costs by the purchase of postage stamps.

To ensure that these stamps were only used for their intended purpose, they had to have a very distinctive design. Since the symbol of the Insurance Department was a lighthouse, all Government Life Insurance Department stamp designs have featured lighthouses. In the rays of the lighthouse are the words "State Security" and the letters "V R" are shown in the background, behind the lighthouse. So actually this was more like a personalised stamp, being issued by the Post Office but only used by the Insurance Office. Virtual NZ Sramps - Government Life



Government Life stamps

1891 ½d Perf 12 x 11½ CP X1a Purple





1893 ½d Perf 10 CP X1b Purple



1897-8 ½d Perf 11 CP X1e(1) Purple




Government Life stamps

1897-8 ½d Perf 11 *CP* X1e(3) Mauve



1903 ½d Perf 11 *CP* X1g Purple



Government Life stamps

1891 1d Perf 12 x 11½ CP X2a Blue



1893 1d Perf 10 CP X2c Blue



1897-8 1d Perf 11 CP X2f Blue



1902 1d Perf 11 CP X2h Blue







Government Life stamps

1891 2d Perf 12 x 11½ CP X3a Deep red Brown



1893 2d Perf 10 CP X3c Pale red Brown



1897 2d Perf 11 CP X3f Red Brown





Government Life stamps

The 1913 Issue. A new Lighthouse Set.

In 1913 permission was again given to the Life Insurance Department to re-issue its own stamps again. Five values, ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d were issued at first, with 1½d black being added four years later in 1917. I am unsure what caused this change in policy. The initial issue was on *De La Rue* paper and perf 14x15. Virtual NZ Stamps 1913 Life Insurance

Date of Issue	1st December 1905
Catalogue No:	CP X7a – X12d
Designer:	WB Hudson & JF Rogers
Printer:	Government Printing Office Wellington
Stamps size:	20mm x 24mm
Sheet Size:	120 stamps per sheet
Paper	Various
Process:	Surface Printed -Typography
Watermark	Single or multiple NZ and star watermark
Perforation	Various combinations

Government Life stamps











The 1½d value was not issued until 1917 and then two years later its colour was changed to orange-brown in 1919. Notice that this is the only value in the series that has the word "Postage" down both sides. All other values have the word "Postage" on the left side and the value in words on the right. Virtual NZ Stamps 1913 Life



Government Life stamps



1919 Life Insurance (no VR). 1½d Brown-Red.



In 1920 the 2d purple was withdrawn and replaced with the 2d Yellow



In 1931 the 3d was changed from light-brown to chocolate.

Cowan paper perf 14x15 was introduced for the ½d and 1d in 1925, and perf 14 for the ½d in 1927, the 6d in 1929 and the 1d, 2d and 3d in 1931.

Wiggins Teape single watermark paper was introduced for the ½d and 1d in 1936 and the 6d in 1937. Finally, Wiggins Teape paper with a multiple watermark was introduced for the 1d in 1943, the 2d and 3d in 1946 and for the ½d and 6d in 1947.



1944 Life Insurance (no VR) 1d-Scarlet



1946 Life Insurance (no VR) 2d Yellow.



1947 Life Insurance (no VR). ½d Green



1947 Life Insurance (no VR) 6d-Pink.

Government Life stamps

1913 ½d Perf 14 x 15 CP X7a Green





1926 ½d Perf 14 CP X7c Pale Yellow Green





1913 1d Perf 14 x 15 CP X8c Carmine





Government Life stamps

1913 1d Perf 14 x 15 CP X8c Carmine Pink





1931 1d Perf 14 CP X8e Scarlet



1937 1d Perf 14 x 15 CPX8f Scarlet



Government Life stamps

1917 1½d Perf 14 x 15 CPX9a Grey Black



1919 1½d Perf 14 x 15 CPX9b Orange-Brown











Government Life stamps

1913 2d Perf 14 x 15 CP X10b Purple





19203 2d Perf 14 x 15 CP X10c Yellow





1937 2d Perf 14 CP X10d Orange Yellow





1937 2d Perf 14 x 15 CP X10e Orange Yellow



Government Life stamps

1931 3d Perf 14 CP XIIb Dark Chocolate





1913 6d Perf 14 x 15 CP X12a Carmine Pink



1937 6d Perf 14 x15 CP X12c Pink



Government Life stamps

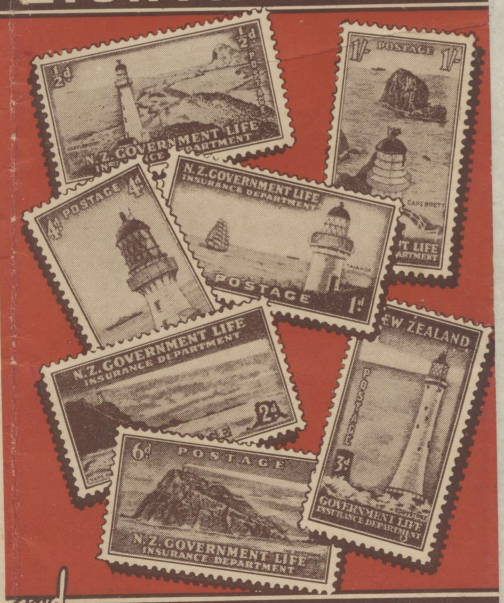
In 1947 the old style Government Life Insurance stamps were replaced with a new series showing actual lighthouses. There were eventually eight stamps in this set. Seven were issued in 1947 and another one issued in 1963. These stamps used an effective two colour design to produce an attractive, and for its day, very modern appearance. Some of them also showed that light beam as had been a feature of the earlier Life Insurance stamps. These first stamps were issued in the name of the Government Life Insurance Department, but under provisions of the Government Life Insurance Act, 1953, the name was altered to Government Life Insurance Office. Virtual NZ Stamps 1947 Life Insurance

Date of Issue	1st August 1947
Catalogue No:	CP X13a – X20a
Designer:	J Berry Wellington
Printer:	Bradbury Wilkinson, England
Stamps size:	½d,1d,2d & 6d: 37mmx 21mm; 2½d, 3d, 4d & 1s 21mm x 37mm
Sheet Size:	120 stamps per sheet
Paper	St Cuthbert 'Royal Cypher' grade
Process:	Recess Printed - Intaglio
Watermark	multiple NZ and star watermark
Perforation	13.5



W. & T. LTD.

LIGHTHOUSES...



and

POSTAGE STAMPS

Government Life Postage Stamps are accepted by the Post Office only when affixed to Government Life mail matter. The stamps must not be used on private correspondence.

Government Life stamps



½d Castlepoint lighthouse, situated on the coast some 30 miles in a straight line east of Masterton, first came into use on 12 January 1913. South of the lighthouse is a prominent hill called 'The Castle' which gives the locality its name. Situated on a peninsula, that becomes almost an island at high tide, this light is important for vessels coming from the east which often made Castlepoint their New Zealand landfall.

1d Taiaroa Lighthouse gold being discovered in Central Otago, the city of Dunedin had quickly become one the more important ports of the young country of New Zealand. One of the earliest lighthouses erected in New Zealand, this light came into operation on 2 January 1865. Situated 58 metres above sea level at the southern side and seaward entrance to Otago Harbour, the Taiaroa Head Light guided shipping into Port Chalmers, the port for the city of Dunedin.

2d Cape Palliser Lighthouse This light, situated at the southern tip of the North Island, stands guard over the eastern approach to Cook Strait. It is set against the hillside above the rocky coastline and beach. There are over 250 steps to get up the base from the beach below. The light first came into operation on 27 October 1897 and was originally fueled by oil. In 1954 the oil lamp was replaced with an electric one powered by a local diesel generator. The last keeper left the light in 1986 when it was fully automated. Now it is owned and operated by Maritime New Zealand and managed from a control room in Wellington.

Virtual NZ Stamps 1947 Life Insurance

Government Life stamps



2½d Cape Campbell Lighthouse The cape has contributed to the wrecking of many ships. It was after the wreck of the *Alexander* in 1858, in which one person was drowned, that Cape Campbell was chosen as a suitable site for a lighthouse. It was another 10 years before one was built however. The light was finally lit on 1 August 1870. faults were found in the tower's original wooden construction. In 1898 it was decided to replace the wooden tower with a new one made of cast iron. In October 1905 the light began operating from its new site. To make the lighthouse stand out from the white hills behind it, the tower was painted with black and white stripes, rather than the standard plain white.NZ Govt Maritime

3d Eddystone Lighthouse This is the most famous beacon on the British Coast is situated about 14 kilometres from the Cornish Coast, and 22 kilometres S.S.W. of Plymouth. The first lighthouse erected here was built of timber by Henry Winstanley in 1696 and enlarged and completed in 1699. In a great storm in 1703 the lighthouse was swept away, carrying with it its hapless architect and five keepers. In 1708 a new lighthouse of stone and wood was erected. Weathering storms for half a century it was eventually destroyed by fire but did become the prototype of all modern lighthouses. A stone lighthouse was built in its place in 1759 which was in turn replaced in 1882 by the lighthouse depicted on the stamp. The tower is 40 metres high with a light visible for 28 kilometres.

4d This light positioned to guide shipping passing through Cook Strait, is situated off the northern tip of D'Urville Island and is approximately 96 kilometres in a direct line N.W. of Wellington and about the same distance N.E. of Nelson. It also marks the eastern entrance to Tasman Bay from the north. The powerful light came into operation on 29 January 1894.The island featured in local myths as the place where a local lighthouse keeper's cat, named Tibbles, was claimed to have caused the extinction of the Stephens Island Wren in 1894.

Virtual NZ Stamps 1947 Life Insurance

Government Life stamps



6d The Brothers is a group of small islands in Cook Strait, New Zealand, off the east coast of Arapawa Island. It comprises two main islands and a number of smaller islets. North Brother Island in this small chain is a sanctuary for the rare reptile species, the Brothers Island tuatara and is the site of the Brothers Island Lighthouse. Built about 70 metres above sea level the light came into operation on 24 September 1877. On the slopes below it, other buildings associated with the light can be seen. Today the light is automated so no keeper is required to live there. The remaining buildings are used by DOC staff and scientists visiting the island.

1/- Situated about 32 kilometres due east of Waitangi, Bay of Islands, Cape Brett lighthouse first came into operation on 21 February 1910. It was one of the first of its kind in New Zealand in which the light machinery revolved in a mercury float. The cast iron tower was made in New Zealand, the lantern, machinery and light apparatus being imported from Great Britain. The island depicted on the stamp is Piercy Island. Through this island is a beautiful archway through which launches are able to navigate. I have been through this cave a few times when we have taken visitors to the Bay of Islands. They always enjoy the 'Hole in the Rock' cruise out to Cape Brett and Piercy Island.

Virtual NZ Stamps 1947 Life Insurance

Government Life stamps

1947 ½d Perf 13.5 *CP X13a* Green & Orange



1951 ½d Perf 13.5 *CP X13b* Green & Red Orange



1947 1d Perf 13.5 *CP X14a(I)* Blue & Grey Olive



Government Life stamps

1947 2d Perf 13.5 CP X15a Grey & Navy Blue







1963 2½d Perf 13.5 CP X16a Ultramarine & Black







1947 3d Perf 13.5 CP X17a Mauve & Blue Green







Government Life stamps

1947 4d Perf 13.5 CP X18a Sepia & Yellow Orange







1947 6d Perf 13.5 CP X19a Sepia & Ultramarine







1947 1s Perf 13.5 CP X20a Brown & Blue







Government Life stamps



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Due to the change to decimal currency on 10 July 1967, a quantity of the 1947 Government Life stamp issue was overprinted by the New Zealand Government Printer with decimal values to ensure there would be enough stock to last through until 1969 when a new set of stamps was planned. Additional supplies were also ordered from Bradbury Wilkinson and Co. Only six of the original set were overprinted, with either a block spot or bars to cover the old value, with the new decimal value being added elsewhere in the design. I think this left a rather scruffy appearance, made even worse by a large number of printing errors that have been found. Virtual NZ Stamps 1947 Life Insurance













Date of Issue	10th July 1967
Catalogue No:	CP X21a – X26c
Designer:	J Berry Wellington
Printer:	Bradbury Wilkinson, England
Stamps size:	½d,1d,2d & 6d: 37mmx 21mm; 2½d, 3d, 4d & 1s 21mm x 37mm
Sheet Size:	120 stamps per sheet
Paper	St Cuthbert 'Royal Cypher' grade
Process:	Recess Printed - Intaglio
Watermark	multiple NZ and star watermark
Perforation	13.5

Government Life stamps

1967 1c Perf 13.5 CP X21b Blue & Grey Olive





1967 2c Perf 13.5 CP X22a Ultramarine & Black





1967 2½c Perf 13.5 CP X23a Mauve & Blue Green





Government Life stamps

1967 2½c Perf 13.5 CP X23b Mauve & Blue Green



1967 3c Perf 13.5 CP X24a Sepia & Orange





1967 5c Perf 13.5 CP X25a Sepia & Ultramarine







Government Life stamps

1967 10c Perf 13.5 CP X26a Brown & Blue





1967 10c Perf 13.5 CP X26c Brown & Blue



New Zealand
Government Life Insurance





BARING HEAD

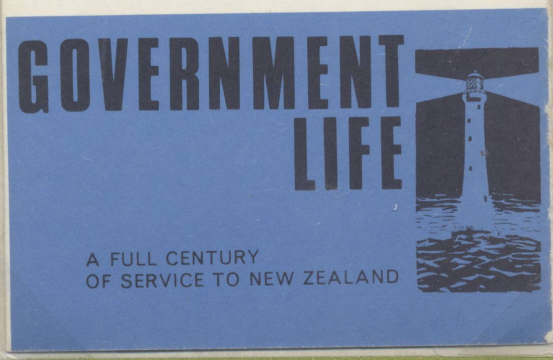
Baring Head, the nearest manned lighthouse to Wellington is one of the newer ones. Until it began to operate in June 1935, ships were guided into Wellington Harbour by the light at Pencarrow Head.

A local farmer, Mr Eric Riddiford, gave the site to the Government in 1932, and work on buildings and tower commenced in 1934. On completion of Baring Head the old high level light at Pencarrow was extinguished.

Baring Head was the first lighthouse in New Zealand to be fully electrified from its opening—it used a diesel-electric plant until conversion to the mains supply in 1950.

The keeper finds the Baring Head station pleasant. The area is suitable for farming and growing vegetables, and the township of Wainuiomata is only 12 miles away.

Government Life Postage Stamps are for use on official Government Life mail only and are not for use on private correspondence.



Government Life stamps



Moeraki Lighthouse can be found near is a small fishing and holiday village of the same name on the Otago coast of the South Island. The location is famous for many large round boulders that can be found on the nearby beaches. Moeraki is a Maori name meaning "drowsy day. First lite, on 22 April 1878, the wooden tower stands 26 feet (8 m) high and 190 feet (58 m) above sea level. The light flashes on for 6 seconds and off for 6 seconds, and can be seen for 10 nautical miles (20 km). The props around the tower were added soon after it was built to stiffen it against the strong winds and gales that buffet this site.
Virtual NZ Stamps 1969 Life Insurance



Puysegur Point is located on the southwestern tip of the South Island. It has gale force or higher winds for 100 days a year on average. It was named by a French navigator Dumont d'Urville in honour of an earlier navigator M. de Puységur. This is the second lighthouse on the site. The original wooden lighthouse was burnt down in 1943 by a man who had recently left a psychiatric hospital and made his way down to Coal Island across the fjord from the lighthouse. He decided the light was a deliberate plot to keep him awake at night by shining in his window so took matters into his own hands. He held all the keeper's hostage with a rifle, smashed the radiotelephone and set fire to the lighthouse The ship pictured could only be the lighthouse tender as no other large ship would have cause to venture close onto this coast. The concrete lighthouse has now in turn been replaced by two automated beacons serviced by helicopter.. Virtual NZ Stamps 1969 Life Insurance

Government Life stamps



Baring Head Lighthouse is a concrete Lighthouse at Baring Head is outside the eastern entrance to Port Nicholson - Wellington Harbour - at the southern tip of the North Island. Its purpose was to be the main approach light to the Wellington Harbour as well as a coastal light for the Cook Strait. Lit on 18 June 1935, it replaced the light at Pencarrow Head which was decommissioned later that year. The lighthouse was initially powered by a diesel generator but was converted to mains electricity in 1950. The 1000 W light was fully automated in 1989. In 2005, the original lens was replaced by a flashing LED beacon visible from up to 18 kilometres (10 nmi). Virtual NZ Stamps 1969 Life Insurance



Cape Egmont is the westernmost point of Taranaki, on the west coast of New Zealand's North Island. It is located close to the volcanic cone of Mount Egmont or Mount Taranaki as its known today. It was named Kaap Pieter Boreel by Dutch explorer Abel Tasman in 1642 but renamed Cape Egmont by British explorer James Cook in 1769. Tasman did not sight Mount Taranaki, due to bad visibility, but Cook did, and after naming the mountain MountEgmont, bestowed the same name on the promontory, which became the enduring name. Ironically, the cape retained a Dutch name, as Cook named the mountain and cape after the Earl of Egmont, who claimed descent of the Dutch House of Egmond. Virtual NZ Stamps 1969 Life Insurance

Government Life stamps



Dog Island is a low lying island in Foveaux Strait at the far south of the South Island. The strait is famous for oysters caught by a fishing fleet based at Bluff Harbour. Dog Island is low-lying and rocky, and its highest (natural) point is only 15 metres (49 ft) above sea level. The size of the island is 28 acres (0.11 km2). The lighthouse was designed by James Balfour, at the time marine engineer to the Otago Provincial Council and later to the Colonial Government of New Zealand, at a total height of 36 metres (118 ft); due to the low-lying nature of the island, the lighthouse had to be quite tall to be effective. It was built of stone quarried on the island. The Dog Island Lighthouse is the tallest lighthouse in New Zealand, and one of the oldest. Due to its black and white stripes, it might be considered one of New Zealand's most distinctive lighthouses. The lighthouse is registered by Heritage New Zealand as a Category I structure, with registration number 395. Virtual NZ Stamps 1969 Life Insurance

Due to changes in postal demands, in 1976 the 8c and 10c were added to the set. Two years later, in 1978, the 2½c was overprinted with 25c.

Government Life stamps



East Cape Lighthouse is a lighthouse sited on Otiki Hill above East Cape, the easternmost point on the North Island of New Zealand. It is owned and operated by Maritime New Zealand. The lighthouse was originally constructed on nearby East Island. However the island was difficult to access (four men died during tower construction when their boat capsized) and the site proved to be susceptible to earthquakes and subsequent landslips. It was becoming more and more likely that the lighthouse might fall into the sea, so something had to be done. In 1920 a decision was made to relocate the light to the mainland and in April 1922, the light was extinguished and then relit at its current location in December of that year. Originally manned by three lighthouse keepers, the light's staffing was progressively reduced until it was fully automated in 1985. It is now controlled from the Maritime New Zealand headquarters in Wellington Virtual NZ Stamps 1969 Life Insurance



Farewell Spit is a narrow sand spit at the northern end of the Golden Bay. It runs eastwards from Cape Farewell, the South Island's northernmost point. It forms the northern side of Golden Bay and is the longest sand spit in New Zealand, stretching for about 26 km above sea level and another 6 km underwater. The spit is made from fine golden sand - as Cape Farewell to the west of the spit is mostly composed of late Cretaceous quartz sandstones. The northern side of the dunes are steeper and unstable being constantly exposed to the prevailing winds which average over 25 km/h. The southern side, that which faces Golden Bay is more stable and largely covered with vegetation. The tide here can recede as much as seven kilometres exposing some 80 square kilometres of mud flats; a rich feeding ground for the many seabirds in the area but also a trap for the frequently stranded whales. The original lighthouse was made of wood with the light at the end of the spit first being lit in 1870. The present steel-framed tower dates from 1897.. Virtual NZ Stamps 1969 Life Insurance

Government Life stamps

1969 ½c Perf 13.25x13.5 CP X27a Rose red, Blue & Yellow







1969 2½c Perf 13.5x13.25 CP X28a Blue & Yellow







Government Life stamps

1969 3c Perf 13.25x13.5 CP X29a Deep Brown & Ochre-Yellow







1969 4c Perf 13.5x13.25 CP X30a Blue & Orange Yellow







Government Life stamps

1976 8c Perf 14 CP X31a Blue, Black & Yellow







1976 10c Perf 14 CP X32a Yellow, Black Red & Brown







Government Life stamps

1969 15c Perf 13.25 x 13.5 CP X33a Black, Blue & Yellow





1975 15c Perf 13.25 x 13.5 CP X33b Black, Blue & Yellow



1978 25c Perf 13.25 x 13.5 CP X34a Blue & Yellow





Souvenir Cover

STABILITY SECURITY

GOVERNMENT
LIFE
INSURANCE
OFFICE

ONE HUNDRED YEARS
OF SERVICE
1869 — 1969



Mrs Ila Fry,
River Road Riwaka,
MOTUEKA R.D.3.

Government Life stamps

New Zealand
Government Life Insurance

Government Life stamps





Government Life stamps



Government Life stamps

The inclusion of a stylised lighthouse on the 1981 Government Life stamp issue continued this theme that had always appeared on Government Life stamps since their inception.This would prove to be the final stamps issued by the Government Life Office as their postage stamps were discontinued in 1987 when Government Life Insurance became Tower Corporation. The symbol of a tower (lighthouse) was continued by the new company by their postage stamps were dropped. As can be seen below, Tower Corporation retained a large collection of stamps and other items related to Government Life Stamps.

Virtual NZ Stamps 1981 Life Insurance



Date of Issue	3rd June 1981
Catalogue No:	CP X35a – X40a
Designer:	A G Mitchell, Wellington
Printer:	Harrison & Sons, England
Stamps size:	42mm x 25mm
Sheet Size:	100 stamps per sheet
Paper	Harrison & Sons
Process:	Lithography
Watermark	Unwatermarked
Perforation	14.25

Government Life stamps

This would prove to be the final stamps issued by the Government Life Office as their postage stamps were discontinued in 1987 when Government Life Insurance became Tower Corporation. The symbol of a tower (lighthouse) was continued by the new company by their postage stamps were dropped. As can be seen below, Tower Corporation retained a large collection of stamps and other items related to Government Life Stamps. Virtual NZ Stamps 1981 Life Insurance

1981 5c Perf 14 x 14.25 CP X35a Bluish Violet, Sky Blue, Light Blue & Black



1981 10c Perf 14 v 14.25 CP X36a Brown-Red, Slate-Violet, Light Blue & Black



1981 20c Perf 14 x 14.25 CP X37a Reddish Purple, Yellow Brown, Buff & Black



Government Life stamps

1981 30c Perf 14 x 14.25 CP X38a Slate-purple, Light Blue & Black



1981 40c Perf 14 x 14.25 CPX39a Grey, OrangePale Yellow & Black



1981 50c Perf 14 x 14.25 CP X40a Venetian Red, Turquoise green, Pale Apple Green & Black



Government Life stamps

