

# FUN PHILATELY

## NEWSLETTER

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## Great Barrier Island Pigeon Post

On 29<sup>th</sup> October 1894 the steamer "Wairarapa" was on a trip from Sydney to Auckland, and due to a navigational error was off course. At 12.10am struck the coast off Great Barrier Island one mile east of Miners Head at the northern most point of the Island. Nothing was known of the tragedy until the coastal steamer "Argyle" arrived in Auckland on 1<sup>st</sup> November with the survivors on board. There were 120 to 135 passengers who perished that night but these numbers have never been definitely established.

This disaster, and the fact that 72 hours elapsed before the news reached Auckland, emphasised the need for some quicker form of communication with Auckland. On 29<sup>th</sup> January 1896 the owners of the Wairarapa arranged a visit to the island for the relatives of the disaster victims, and a bird called Ariel, the property of Mr Walter Fricker, flew the trial flight.



Pigeon showing message around it's leg

From this beginning there came a steady demand for the use of pigeons to carry messages, mainly from prospectors who went to the Island following reports of gold and silver. At this time there were about four mining companies operating and Mr Joseph Smales, an Auckland stockbroker and mining promoter, approached Mr Walter Fricker suggesting a regular service with a covering charge. This was agreed to and 2/- per message was set as the cost.

The service started in February 1897, a year after the initial trial.



Mr Parkin at Blin Bay

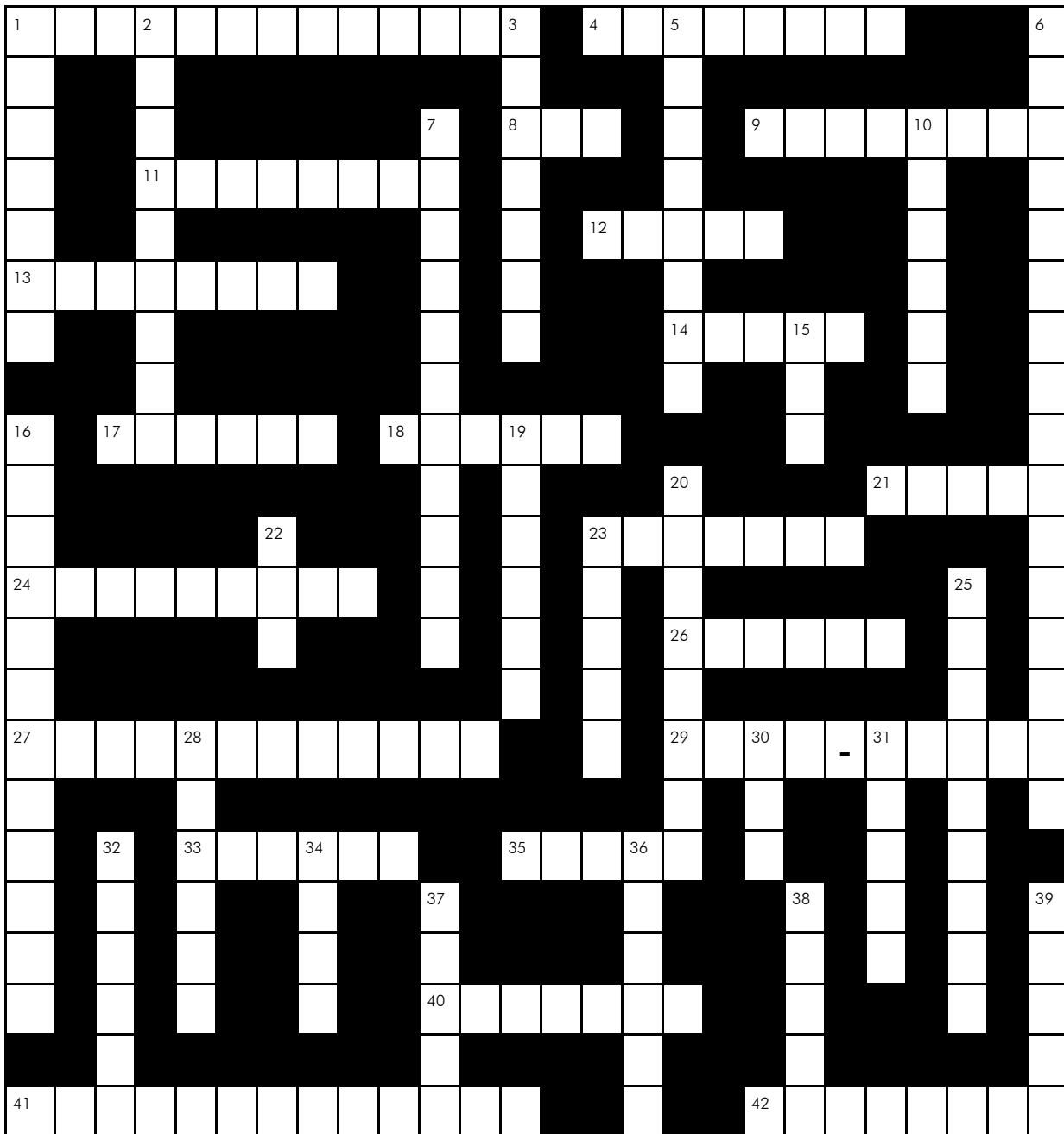
On 8<sup>th</sup> May 1897 Mr J E Parkin started an opposition enterprise at a cost of 1/6 per letter and the postmistress at Blin Bay agreed to act as his agent. He approached the government for a subsidy, with written support from the residents, but this was refused. Mr Fricker's reaction to this was to move his agency from Okupa to Oroville. The business was then bought by Mr Henry Bolitho who thought that a stamp would popularise the service. Mr Evans of the Observer Printing Works in Auckland came up with a design. The bird in the centrepiece was copied religiously, and in fact appears to be a swallow and not a pigeon. The charge was also reduced to 1/-. These stamps were placed on sale 19<sup>th</sup> November 1898 and withdrawn on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1899.



In August 1899 another design was drawn, this time with Pigeon Gram in two words in the centre, and placed on sale 25<sup>th</sup> August 1899

Editor thanks Mr J Kilgour for assistance with this article.

# Jumbo Spring Crossword



## CLUES

### Across

1. A cover with a stamp postmarked on the day of issue (3 words).
4. A marking placed on mail by the postal authority.
8. The postmark is used to \_ \_ \_ the stamp to a cover
9. Stamps overprinted and issued to the UPU to aid identification of stamps by a country.
11. Stamps printed using photogravure printing methods use these to print each separate colour.
12. Unique Flaw.
13. Damaged stamps that have portions replaced to give the appearance of good stamps.
14. This piece of equipment is used to measure perforations.

17. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Stamps are issued to help raise funds for health camps.
18. A stamp cut in half to pay half the value shown on the stamp.
21. Stamps are issued in this format.
23. Stamps purchased in an outer cover for convenience.
24. Stamps intended for the prepayment of this type of communication.
26. A \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ is sent using stamps to pay its way.
27. This service is required when sending valuables through the post.
29. Stamps printed upside down in relation to each other.
33. A term used when all or part of a design is printed in reverse on the back of a stamp.
35. Part of a stamp design that encloses the central picture.
40. A type of post where mail is sent in Aeroplanes.

41. The study of mail carried by air.
42. Stamps overprinted for use on government mail.

### Down

1. A stamp produced illegally.
2. An overprint that alters the face value of a stamp.
3. A minor correction made by hand to a printing plate or cylinder.
5. The edges of a sheet of stamps.
6. Postmarked stamps that have never been through the postal system (3 words).
7. A temporary stamp surcharged until a separate stamp design can be issued for that value.
10. A stamp with no perforations.

(Continued on page 3)

# Design a Stamp



Davey Oosterman with entries in the 'Design a Stamp' competition on display at Pukekohe open day.

(Continued from page 2)

15. The adhesive on the back of stamps.
16. A type of printing process.
19. A complete envelope, postcard or wrapper with stamps affixed to prepay postage.
20. A means of separating stamps by a series of cuts in the paper which do not remove any paper.
22. An appendage to a stamp in the form of an attached coupon, label or tag.
23. Multiples of unsecured stamps which includes at least 2 rows of stamps in any direction.
25. An overprint that alters the face value of a stamp (same as 2 down).
28. A type of postmark that also gives a message.
30. A stamp used to receipt revenue by governments.
31. A fictitious stamp that never officially existed is called  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_
32. An early form of obliteration/postmarking.
34. Stamps are often collected this way.
36. A type of post office that travels to outdoor events.
37. A variety of degree of colour on a stamp.
38. A sample stamp sent to the Postal Authority by the printer.
39. A type of Post or Stamps whose use is restricted to a stated area or town.

# Condition Problems!



Condition Problems: Damage can cause a stamp to be worth much less or perhaps nothing at all, in comparison to a sound copy. Sellotape can ruin a stamp. Whether the damage is on front or back, or visible at all at first glance, it still makes the stamp less desirable to most collectors. This is why it is especially important to handle stamps carefully to avoid creases, greasy fingers, stains and scuffs.

COUNTERFEIT	REPAIRED
CREASES	REPRINT
CUT	SCUFFED
FADED	STAINED
HEAVY CANCEL	STUCK DOWN
MISSING PERFS	TAPED
NO GUM	THIN
PINHOLE	TEARS
REGUMMED	WRINKLED

C O U N T E R F E I T A D S H  
L S P I N E E A C L U N E T E  
I D T A P O P D E T C F N U A  
N O A R T T A E S Q O S I C V  
I E I A N S I D H I F R A K Y  
H N D L O U R W I R Y U T D C  
T S C U F F E D E P G U S O A  
E E R T A O D P I N O P S W N  
R H E R R E G U M M E D D N C  
T L A U E N T A N S H E Q R E  
N T S P I L U O I R D P E W L  
O Y E S U O P S N T E A R S I  
G T S L U Q I O P A B T U R K  
U I T W R I N K L E D T A E P  
M Y U E R W I O E L O H N I P

# DID YOU KNOW

The longest route for mail carried on foot is that from Montreal to Niagara, 660km, established about 1798. The mail man left in January (wearing snow shoes) and the round trip took three months.

# ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

There are four awards, Bronze, Silver-Bronze, Silver and Gold

The Bronze and Silver-Bronze Awards can be examined by a stamp club leader, school teacher, youth group leader or adult stamp collector. The Silver and Gold must be examined by a person approved by the Philatelic Youth Council Executive.

## Silver-Bronze

1. The applicant must have been collecting stamps for at least 12 months and must have qualified for the PYC Bronze Achievement Award.
2. The applicant (or a club leader) should write to PYC Achievement Awards, PO Box 2979, Auckland advising the name and address of a preferred examiner, as well as requesting a Silver-Bronze Achievement Award application form and question paper.
3. The application form and question paper will be sent to the examiner, who will give the ten question paper to the applicant.
4. The applicant should complete the question paper without assistance. There is a time limit of seven days.
5. The examiner should ensure that the applicant has an eight page display of stamps which has been entered into a Society Youth Section or Youth Inter-club competition and received a 60% mark or more, has given a five minute talk on the display, has answered at least five questions on the display and is able to demonstrate an understanding of how to detect watermarks and measure perforations.
6. The completed examiners form and completed question paper should be returned to PYC Achievement Awards, PO Box 2979, Auckland.
7. If the examiner approves the award and the applicant has answered at least 60% of the question paper correctly the Silver-Bronze Certificate and Silver-Bronze Achievement Award badge will be sent to the examiner or the stamp club leader for presentation at a stamp club meeting.

## Silver

1. The applicant must have been collecting stamps for at least two years and must have qualified for the PYC Silver-Bronze Achievement Award.
2. The applicant (or a club leader) should write to PYC Achievement Awards, PO Box 2979, Auckland advising the name and address of a preferred examiner, as well as requesting a Silver Achievement Award application form and question paper.
3. The application form and question paper will be sent to the examiner, who will give the question paper to the applicant.
4. The applicant should complete the question paper without assistance. There is a time limit of seven days.
5. The examiner should ensure that the applicant has a 16 page display of stamps of National Emerald Award standard, has given a 5 to 10 minute talk on the display, has answered at least eight specialised questions on the display and is able to demonstrate an understanding of how to use a stamp catalogue.
6. The completed examiners form and completed question paper should be returned to PYC Achievement Awards, PO Box 2979, Auckland.
7. If the examiner approves the award and the applicant has answered at least 75% of the question paper correctly the Silver Certificate and Silver Achievement Award badge will be sent to the examiner or the stamp club leader for presentation at a stamp club meeting.

### EXHIBITION PROTECTORS

**New shipment now arrived, same quality.**

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