

Australia Features Norfolk Scenes in Joint Issue



Norfolk Island is a small island in the Pacific Ocean some 850 miles east of the Australian mainland. The first European known to have sighted the island was Captain James Cook, in 1774, on his second voyage to the South Pacific on HMS Resolution. He named it after Mary Howard, Duchess of Norfolk.

Originally settled by Polynesians, the island was colonized by Great Britain in 1788 and subsequently used as a British penal colony. In 1856 the inhabitants of the overcrowded Pitcairn Island, including many of the descendants of the original Bounty mutineers, were resettled on Norfolk Island.

In 1914 Norfolk Island was proclaimed an external territory of the Commonwealth of Australia. The territory enjoys a substantial degree of self-government, and since 1947 has been responsible for its own postal service and postage stamps.

Released on July 22, this joint stamp issue features the endemic

Norfolk Island Pine, *Araucaria heterophylla*, a symbol of the island. The Norfolk Island Pine is also widely grown in Australia, particularly in coastal regions, as an ornamental tree.

The \$1.40 stamp design shows the Old Military Barracks at Kingston on Norfolk Island, built in 1832 during the Second Settlement (1825–1855) and now home to the island's Legislative Assembly. Norfolk Island Pines on Cottesloe Beach in Western Australia are featured in the base-rate 70c design. In 2009 Lonely Planet named Cottesloe Beach the world's second best beach for families.

The stamps were designed by Melinda Coombes, Coombes Whitechurch Design.

The Norfolk-Australia joint stamp issue is available from Australia Post at www.auspost.com.au/stamps or contact Australia Stamp Agency in North America toll free (USA and Canada) on 1-800-443-4225 while stocks last.