

Australia Tree Issue Includes Sheetlet on Wood



A March 17 new issue from Australia Post features ancient and distinctive native Australian trees. The stamp designs use striking photography to showcase the Lemon-scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), Queensland Bottle Tree (*Brachychiton rupestris*), Moonah (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) and Green Fig (*Ficus virens*).

Australia Post Philatelic Manager, Michael Zsolt said many Australians have a love of the natural world and understand the important role trees play in Australia's biodiversity, sometimes living to a great age: "Australian native flora continues to be a popular theme, especially with collectors. We trust those with a love of nature as well as budding photographers will appreciate these distinctive and beautiful trees."

Left to right, the Australian tree stamps picture:

The Lemon-scented Gum tree is native to eastern New South Wales and Queensland. This tall tree has a narrow-leaved crown which smells strongly of lemons. The example depicted on the stamp grows near Tocumwal, New South Wales and it is around 130 years old.

The Queensland Bottle tree is endemic to Queensland and northern New South Wales. The distinctive swollen trunk is used mainly for water storage. The stamp shows an example growing in the Burnett region of Queensland. It is a particularly large tree, 75 feet tall with a 31 foot circumference.

The Moonah tree is native to southern Australian coastal regions. The stamp features a Moonah tree from Churchill Island in Westernport Bay, Victoria, which is thought to be more than 350 years old.

The Green Fig tree is an epiphytic species and is native to northern, tropical Australia. The tree featured on the stamp is from Queensland's Atherton Tablelands and is around 500 years old.

The stamps were designed by Melbourne award-winning graphic designer Mary Callahan using photographs by Kimbal Baker.

The new Australian Trees stamp release comprises one domestic base rate (70c) stamp and three large letter rate (\$1.40 and two \$2.10) stamps. The products associated with this stamp issue include a first day cover, stamp pack, postcard booklet and a set of four maxicards.

In addition, in an Australian first, Australia Post has produced a special pack featuring a stamp sheetlet printed on real wood. The unique sheetlet of 10 x 70c self-adhesive stamps features the Lemon-scented tree stamp and is valid for postage.

The Australian Trees stamp issue is available from March 17, 2015 at auspost.com.au/stamps or contact the Australia Stamp Agency in North America toll free (USA and Canada) on 1-800-443-4225 while stocks last.