



PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
PHILATELIC BUREAU

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA Stamp News

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | ISSUE #3 - MAY/JUNE 2020

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## I'm Talking STAMPS



Dear Collector,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our May/June edition of the Philatelic Newsletter. It has taken us a while to come good with the much needed information everyone is waiting for, and for that, I sincerely apologize. If the Corvid-19 pandemic situation, you would imagine, is the scapegoat here, then it would only be fair to admit that we also had a part to play with a dragging issue or two that also contributed to the delay. So as nothing (so we thought) was important enough to demand urgent publicity, we deliberately dropped the sail, thus creating the current vacuum experienced.

With the new turn of tide, as we are gradually acclimatizing to the new normal, I thought I should first inform you that the 2020 postage rates to all domestic and international destinations will remain the same as 2019; K1.60 Domestic and K6.90 to all international destinations. The decision to freeze the postage rates has been a blessing in disguise for us - with the unforeseen circumstances that are unfolding now, the unsold 2019 postage stamps came in handy - we were able to use them at our post offices early this year while waiting for the 2020 issues to be released. However, this solution was short-lived, as the new stamp releases did not arrive as expected - we began to experience shortage of stamps again (local values especially) at some of our post offices, and that ushered us back to the drawing board the second time. With a worrying situation still, this time we resorted to releasing *2 x Overprint issues (Overprinted on the Tuna Fishery & APEC unsold stamps)* to alleviate the situation. The overprints were also sold together with the remaining 2019 stamps (readily available at some of our post offices).

### 2020 Postage Stamp Issues

To avoid possible inconveniences, we deliberately delayed the broadcast of our 2020 stamp issue topics/schedule until we got clearance to proceed – We planned to release seventeen (17) stamp issues this year, and the management has given its approval on this. With the inclusion of the two Overprints released earlier in the year, the seventeen stamp issues scheduled for 2020 were signed-off on Monday 22nd June, 2020.

### Latest Stamp Release

Despite the delay, I am pleased to inform you that we have so far released four stamp issues: 1) The TUNA FISHERY Overprint, 2) APEC Overprint, 3) Post Courier 50th Anniversary, 4) Bread Fruit. The Post Courier 50th Anniversary issue was literally out for sale before the official launch on the 30th June, 2020.

### New Postal Codes

With the rest of the world moving to four digit postal codes, we, on the other hand, continued on with three digits for a fair number of years – so to be on par with other postal administrations around the world, we have recently upgraded our codes (for all the post offices nationwide) to four digits now.



Post PNG





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### **New Post Office Open**

With the intrusion of modern technology, like with every other postal administration around the world, Post PNG too, has its share of adversity in most aspects of the business; and the turbulence created was severe enough to choke the growth of the business. As the mandated postal service provider, we successfully enveloped the whole nation with our service, even spreading through to the remotest parts of the highlands, down to the coastal areas, and on to the outer islands. However, sad to note, the number of our post offices gradually dwindled in numbers, and is now fluctuating in the 40s. On a positive note, thanks to current management directives, the trend has begun to improve – from 43 Post Offices to 44 now, after opening of the Brian Bell Plaza Post Office in Gordons (Port Moresby) at 9:00am on Wednesday 24th June, 2020. If this is any indication of things to come, I am sure better days are on the horizon.

### **Technical Issues - Payment Gateway/Eftpos Machine**

As most who shop online [www.postpng.com.pg](http://www.postpng.com.pg) will have experienced, due to a transitional issue taking place (Retail business bought off by another bank), with our local banker, a considerable number of payment transactions attempted by collectors worldwide were unsuccessful in the last month or so, and as the situation is beyond our control, I regrettably apologize for inconveniences caused. And not only that, to add salt-to-wound, our banker has yet to replace our eftpos machine (to be brought from abroad), thus creating another dilemma - we are unable to directly process both onsite and online sales. Good thing is, as this is only a temporary issue, we're working with the bank to resolve it as best we can, so we hope to resume to normal business in the coming week.

Until then, thank you again for your continued support.

**Banian Masiboda**

*Philatelic Manager*

*Post PNG Limited*



**Post PNG**

