

HOW FAR DID A PENNY GO IN 1915

In 1915 Australia, penny postage still ruled. The famous George V "Penny Red" stamp had been released in the middle of 1914, and was printed (and used) in the millions each day, with over 1.5 billion eventually produced. The stamp it replaced, the 1d red Kangaroo, had only been on issue for about a year, but some stocks were still available in 1915 and so there was concurrent use of both stamps.

Penny postage within Australia guaranteed the same rate, whether it was for a letter from Toowoomba to Withcott or one from Cairns to Perth. Airmail postage (with its additional surcharge) was still well in the future, despite Monsieur Guillaux's pioneering Melbourne-Sydney effort in 1914. Even mail to Perth was sent at least part of the way by ship, as the Trans-Continental Railway was still two years from completion.

Within the major cities, mail was an efficient means of communication. It was still possible to drop a postcard in a letterbox in the morning for local delivery that afternoon, hence the huge numbers of basic-rate postage stamps produced.

This display shows a small sample of mail from 1915.



21 January 1915: A holiday postcard from Peterborough (Vic) to Mordialloc (a Melbourne suburb) (262 km)