

Cook Islands – Royal Wedding

Following the plethora of issues for the Royal Engagement of Prince William & Kate Middleton (reported in the April Pacifica), it was refreshing to find that only a single issue was released commemorating the Royal Wedding, for the Cook Islands, without corresponding issues for Aitutaki and Penrhyn. Released on 29 April 2011, this issue comprises a set of 3 values, 20c; 30c and 80c. Stamp size 36 x 36mm, perf 13.5, printed in sheets of 10. The 3 values are also issued in a souvenir sheet, measuring 168 x 96mm. This souvenir sheet is also issued with what is described as a “*Special Phosphor Ink Overprint*” at almost 5 times the price of the normal sheet.

Fiji Definitive Overprints. – The End of the 23c Overprints.

From Bryan Jones

Finally, in mid March 2011, the last remaining sheets of the original 23c were released for overprinting, the final delivery of a 23c overprint being a batch of 20c/23c delivered on 17 March 2011.

Before moving on to the next phase it is useful to summarise the overprints produced using the 23c original.

20c/23c Overprint. The value most in demand to pay the basic internal letter rate, the first batches appeared in April 2008, and until March 2011 the quantities produced were as follows:-

- Up to end 2009	546,800
- Between January and April 2010	93,200 (original print machine replaced)
- Between May 2010 and March 2011	464,900 (overprinted on new machine)
- Total 20c/23c overprints produced	1,104,900

One interesting statistic derived from the above figures is that it can be seen that 11,049 examples of the constant “No Gap between “c” and “xxx” which occurred through the whole duration of this overprint will have been produced. Therefore there were more of this particular variety produced than the total quantity printed of some of the other overprints.

1c/23c Overprint.

Deliveries of the 1c/23c overprint can be split between the original “2009” setting and the new “2010” setting created after the introduction of the new print machine, and the deletion by the printer of all earlier settings used up to March 2010. This pattern also applies to details of the 2c/23c; 3c/23c; 4c/23c and 5c/23c which follow.

- Original printing with 2 large “XX”	20,000
- Produced used the “2009” setting	20,000
- Produced using the “2010” setting	34,200

1c/23c “xxx”. 8 deliveries between 3 August and end November 2010. Total sheets delivered - 342.

2c/23c Overprint.

- Produced using the “2009” setting	10,000
- Produced using the “2010” setting	36,000

2c/23c “xxx”. 9 deliveries between 5 August and end November 2010. Total sheets delivered – 360.

3c/23c Overprint.

- Produced using the “2009” setting	10,000
- Produced using the “2010” setting	29,500

3c/23c “xxx”. 7 deliveries between 5 August and end November 2010. Total sheets delivered – 295.

4c/23c Overprint.

- Produced using the “2009” setting	40,000
- Produced using the “2010” setting	50,000

4c/23c “xxx”. 7 deliveries between 3 August and end November 2010. Total sheets delivered – 500.

5c/23c Overprint.

- Produced using the “2009” setting	98,500
- Produced using the “2010” setting	61,300

5c/23c “xxx”. 10 Deliveries between 6 August and end November 2010. Total sheets delivered – 613.