

# CI LUNAR NEW YEAR – YEAR OF THE RAT

8 JANUARY 2008

50c..... pictorial  
\$1.45..... calligraphic



1555098 zodiac sheetlet



1555126 stamp pack  
Also the perfect greeting card for the 2008 Lunar New Year celebrations!

Lunar New Year is a festival of new beginnings and is celebrated by Chinese people world-wide. According to the Chinese calendar, the year begins somewhere between the end of January and early February, and for festival seasons, such as New Year, the Chinese Lunar Calendar is the determining factor. The Year of the Rat officially begins on 7 February 2008.

## The Year of the Rat

The Rat is the first sign in the Chinese zodiac and symbolises good luck and wealth. Tradition has it that the Rat only achieved first position in the 12-year Chinese zodiac cycle by using great cunning to win the zodiac race which was to determine the order of the 12 animals to be included.

Those born in the Year of the Rat are said to be imaginative, generous, quick-tempered and intelligent. They would make ideal writers, critics, detectives, artists, musicians, lawyers, politicians or psychiatrists. Richard Nixon, William Shakespeare, Prince Charles, Louis Armstrong, Andrew Lloyd-Webber, Julia Child and Albert Finney were all born in the Year of the Rat.

## Stamp and Minisheet Designs

The paper cut motifs have been used by designer, Dani Poon, to pictorially represent the Rat in the 50c stamp. Paper cuts are one of the most popular forms of Chinese art and are commonly used to decorate windows, lanterns, gates and walls during celebrations.

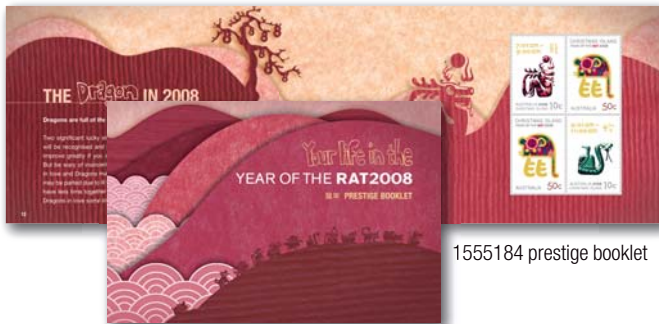
Australia Post will include a seal of authenticity and official number on all stamp and coin covers from January 2008. This is the first Australian issued stamp and coin cover to use the identifying process!



1555008 postal and numismatic cover featuring Lunar New Year minisheet – 2008 Issue 1



1555001 set first day covers



1551184 prestige booklet



1555142 minisheet

The stamps, minisheet, zodiac sheetlet and postal and numismatic cover feature gold foiling.

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

Issue date.....	8 January 2008
FDI withdrawal date.....	5 February 2008
Denominations.....	One x 50c, one x \$1.45
Design.....	Dani Poon, Tak Nai, Melbourne
Printer.....	SEP Sprint
Paper (gummed).....	Tullis Russell
Printing process.....	Lithography
Stamp size.....	26mm x 37.5mm
Minisheet size.....	136mm x 70mm
Zodiac sheetlet size.....	170mm x 210mm
Perforations.....	14.6 x 13.86
Sheet layout.....	50 (with design in 50c gutter)
Special feature.....	Gold foiling on stamps, minisheet, zodiac sheetlet, and pnc (includes first Aust. seal of authenticity)
National postmark.....	Christmas Island, WA 6798



1555231 PPE (domestic)

1555232 PPE (international)



1555212 postcard

# Seven Seas

The following will be included in Seven Seas 2008 supplements and optional pages. Seven Seas pages are available only from stamp dealers and from Seven Seas. Products for Seven Seas pages • No CTO • Partial returns for refund not accepted

## 8 January 2008

### Christmas Island: Lunar New Year – Year of the Rat

Supplement – design set (gummed), minisheet, zodiac sheetlet, gutter strip (10 x 50c, with design)

## 15 January 2008

### Special Occasions – Love Blooms

Supplement – single gummed, single s/a (complete sheetlet)  
Optional – sheetlet of 10 (gummed), sheetlet of 10 (s/a)

## 24 January 2008

### 2008 Australian Legends

Supplement – design set (gummed), s/a strip of four  
Optional – s/a strip of four, collector pack, gutter strip (10 x 50c - with design)

## 5 February 2008

### Organ & Tissue Donation

Supplement – single gummed, single s/a (complete booklet)  
Optional – sheetlet (10 x 50c - gummed), s/a booklet of 10

## 19 February 2008

### Centenary of Scouting in Australia

Supplement – design set (gummed), design set s/a (two x s/a sheetlets), single s/a from roll  
Optional – two x s/a sheetlets, collector pack

## 26 February 2008

### Cocos (Keeling) Islands – Visiting Birds

Supplement – design set (gummed), gutter pair  
Optional – nil

### Mail order codes

<b>1559235 Australian Supplement</b>	<b>\$35.50</b>
<b>1559236 Australian Optional</b>	<b>\$58.55</b>
<b>1559237 Cocos (Keeling) Islands Supplement</b>	<b>\$4.45</b>
<b>1559238 Christmas Island Supplement</b>	<b>\$12.85</b>

*In the case of self-adhesive stamp booklets and sheetlets, Australia Post will supply full booklets or sheetlets only.*

## NEW ISSUES

Mail order (Retail)	Product Description	Price	*Planned Withdrawal Date
8 January 2008	CI Lunar New Year : Year of the Rat		
1555067 (35388)	Stamps (one x 50c, one x \$1.45)	\$1.95	31 July 2008
1555350	Set of minisheets (mint, postmarked) [MO]	\$3.90	31 July 2008
1555142 (35397)	Minisheet (mint)	\$1.95	31 July 2008
1555143	Minisheet (postmarked) [MO]	\$1.95	31 July 2008
1555258 (35399)	Pack of five minisheets	\$9.75	31 July 2008
1555098 (35400)	Zodiac sheetlet	\$3.95	31 July 2008
1555126 (35405)	Stamp pack (doubles as a greeting card)	\$2.40	31 July 2008
1555001	Set of first day covers & pnc [MO]	\$21.75	29 February 2008
1555002 (35402)	First day cover (stamps)	\$2.25	29 February 2008
1555013 (35403)	First day cover (minisheet)	\$2.25	29 February 2008
1555252 (35404)	First day cover (two x zodiac)	\$2.30	29 February 2008
1555005 (35401)	First day cover (blank – not included in the set)	\$0.30	31 July 2008
1555240	Set of gutters (10 x 50c, 10 x \$1.45) [MO]	\$19.50	31 July 2008
1555241 (35392)	Gutter (10 x 50c – includes design)	\$5.00	31 July 2008
1555242 (35396)	Gutter (10 x \$1.45 – no design)	\$14.50	31 July 2008
1555351	Set of PPEs [MO]	\$2.80	31 July 2008
1555231 (35407)	PPE (domestic)	\$0.60	31 July 2008
1555232 (35408)	PPE (international)	\$2.20	31 July 2008
1555212	Postcard (one)	\$1.20	31 July 2008
1555008 (35409)	Lunar New Year stamp & coin cover <i>(with seal of authenticity)</i>	\$14.95	31 July 2008
1555184 (35411)	Lunar New Year prestige booklet	\$10.95	31 July 2008
1555300 (35410)	Lunar New Year Lucky Desk Calendar	\$14.95	To be advised