

NAURU: Use of Local Postage

Original Research

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Postage stamps are issued to send mail locally within and outside of the country. Nauru, however, is the exception; it is the smallest commonwealth country in the world. The total area of the country is only 21 sq. kilometers (8.1 sq. miles). The entire population is around ten thousand, generally settled along the island's main road, which is approximately 24 km running along the circumference of the island. Because of the small size of the country, the use of mail to communicate with people living on the island is not required; the telephone service (when working) is free, and a person can walk around the entire island in three hours. Collecting examples of local mail can be quite a challenge.

The size of the post office is very small. It is managed with no more than 6 to 10 staff. No Post Office local delivery of letters are made on the island. Letters are kept in the post boxes located outside the Post Office, and patrons are advised to check their post box regularly after the arrival of ship or plane bringing mail. Local use of postage is only required by corporations sending out legal or important documents such as insurance policies, bills of lading or courier confirmations.

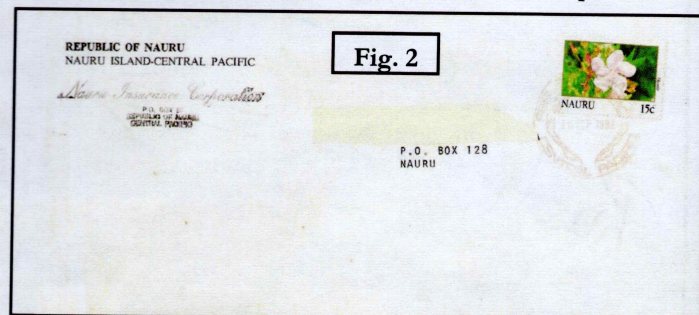
Local Postal Rates

The information about the local rates is based on my study during my stay on the island during the period 1990 till 2001. Since the use of local postage is very rare, I thought it might be of interest to share my study with the readers. I have not seen any locally used covers before the period 1990 and hence unable to comment.

From 1990 to 1998: the standard rate for an envelope was 15 cents. But since there were no inland postal stationery printed, it was more expensive to buy blank stationery

and a 15 cent stamp than use the post office aerogramme with a value of 25 cents. Registration charges were same for local and international mails.

Surprisingly, there had been no indication of local postal rates applicable in the Nauru Post Office rate list. It is not clear how the rate of 15 cents had been charged during this period. Figure 1 shows a locally used envelope with 15 cents postage dated 22 October 1991. Although it is addressed to a residential address, it would never be delivered and had to be picked up from Post Office. The post boxes

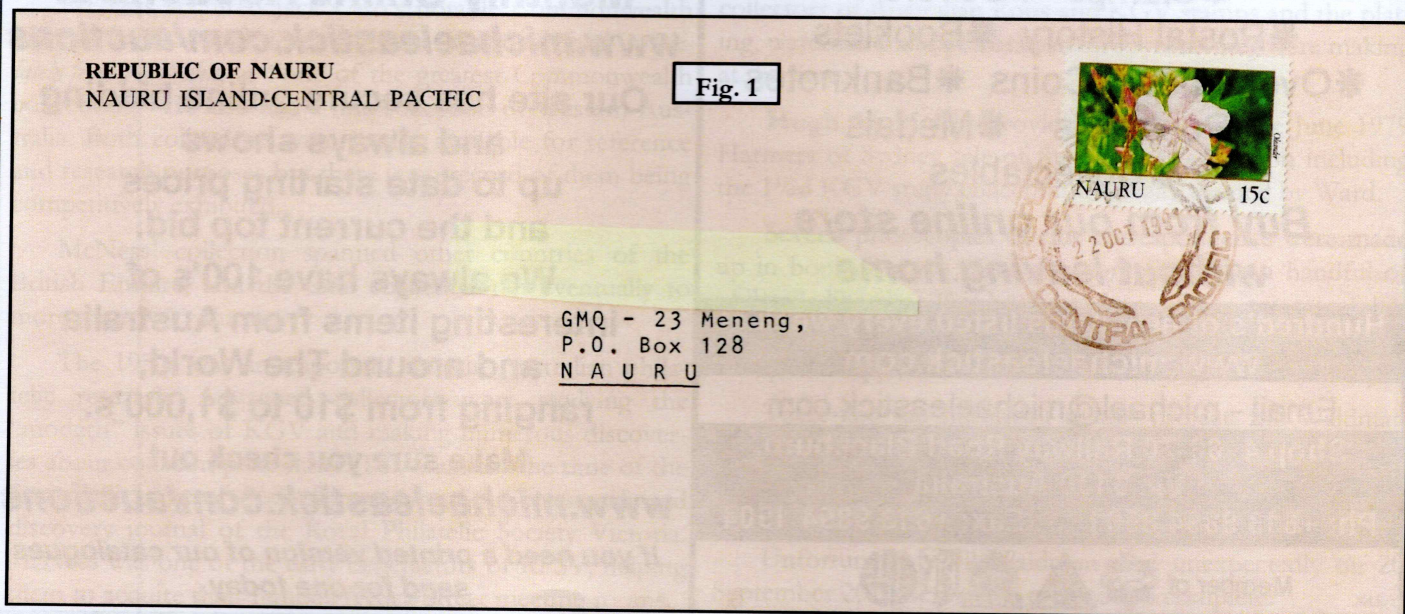


available on the island are limited, and there is a waiting list to get one, for which a rental fee of \$3 per year is charged.

Figure 2 is again an envelope with 15 cents postage dated 16 September 1992 addressed simply to a post box number.

Figure 3 (next page) is an unusual aerogramme used as a local letter with registration to make a complaint about the Post Office services dated 23 May 1991. An additional fee of 30 cents paid for the registration; however there was no published registration rate for local letters at this time.

From 1998 to 2004: Postal rates were increased in the



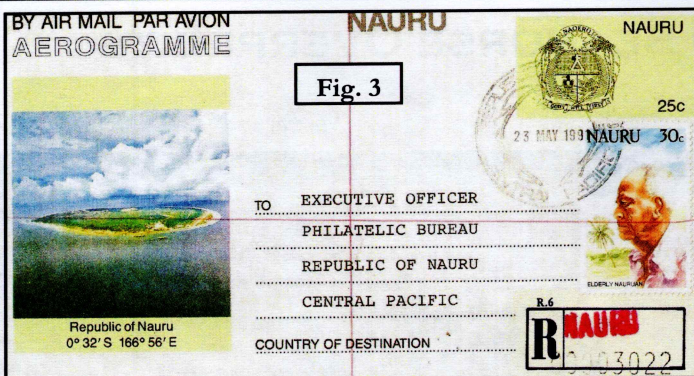


Fig. 3

second quarter of 1998, and the local postal rates were incorporated in the postal rate in Annex 1(e) and Annex (f) of the Nauru postal rates – both shown as Figure 4. The rates incorporated were never followed because the rates were prepared incorrectly.

A flat fee of 20 cents for local letter delivery was introduced, and two examples are illustrated. Figure 5 is a commercially used envelope used by the courier company to send documents to Nauru Fisheries authority. Figure 6 is a

LETTERS WITHIN NAURU

Small Letters (no heavier than 250g)
Greeting Cards (maximum size: small letter size)
Large Letters (up to 50g)
(over 50g up to 125g)
(over 125g up to 250g)
(over 250g up to 500g)

Fig. 4

\$0.40c
\$0.30c
\$0.50c
\$0.60c
\$0.70c
\$0.80c

LOCAL DELIVERY LETTER SERVICE

Letters up to 50g	up to 125g	up to 250g	up to 500g
Small	\$0.10c	\$0.20c	\$0.40c
Medium	\$0.45c	\$0.50c	\$0.60c
Large	\$0.65c	\$0.70c	\$0.80c

GENERAL INFORMATION

Local delivery letter service only applicable to letter post items. There is no delivery service for small packets, printed matters and parcels

Also, registered and insured item are not included in the delivery service.

For further information or enquiries, please contact the post office on telephone 444 3210 (fax 444 3201) or see one of the staff at the Counter.

portion of a newsletter on “Eradication of Fruit Fly species in Nauru” circulated and sponsored by Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Both show the 20c local delivery rate.

Commercially used local mail are very few, and the sources are mainly from the Nauru Insurance Corporation and some local business merchants.

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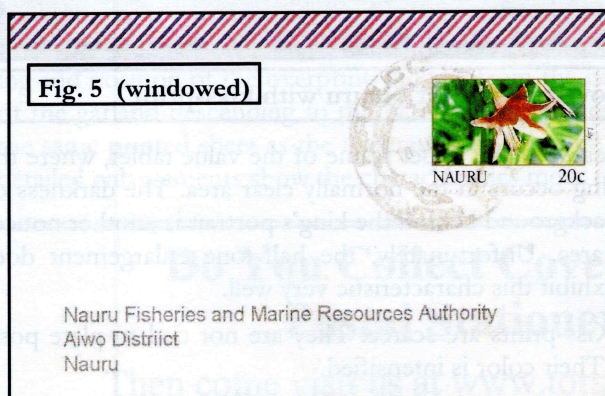


Fig. 5 (windowed)



Fig. 6

≈ NEWS LETTER ≈

On the Eradication of Fruit fly species in Nauru

Issue No. 1

Regional management of Fruit flies in the Pacific

minimize the levels of damaged caused by fruit flies and hopefully to completely wipe out the existence of fruit fly species on the island of Nauru. This will increase the availability of good quality fruits and vegetables for the house hold families and for children of today and tomorrow.

2.0 ERADICATION TECHNIQUES
The methods of the eradication programme

spray attracts female fruit flies as the females need a feed of protein when she matures so she can reproduce. The protein bait is made out of protein waste yeast from brewery industries. This waste product is modified, added with small amounts of insecticide as the killing agent of the female fruit flies. Small amounts of Protein bait (100mls) per tree is sprayed beneath the surface of the leaves within a square kilometer. Female

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A Mini Review by David McNamee

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2011



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