

VICTORIA 1897 Charity issue

Victoria's first semi-postal issue on 7 October 1897 followed the success of a similar venture by New South Wales earlier that same year. The 1897 stamps were sold to raise money for a Hospital Charity fund. One penny on each shilling paid for postage, the other eleven pence per shilling went to the charity fund.

Although these issues represented postage rate of 1d. and 2 1/2d., the stamps were sold at 1/- and 2/6 respectively, and the balance being a donation to a hospital fund. The designs were by Maximilian Tannenbergh of Messrs Troerdel and Co., Melbourne and the engraving by R. Castleton Mitchelhill. Perf 12 1/2, watermark V + Crown sideways.

John Gavan Duffy (1844-1917), Australian solicitor, member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly, Minister of Agriculture (1880), was Postmaster-General to New South Wales between September 1894 – December 1899 and is likely to have overseen this process.

