

Viva Australia Post - Australia Post Dragonflies

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Each year, Australia Post runs Stamp Collecting Month to promote the multi-generational hobby of stamp collecting while simultaneously educating primary school students on a curriculum theme such as history, geography, science, technology and/or the environment.

In July 2017, the theme focused on dragonflies, with the release of five beautifully presented stamps and supporting information for educators, children, parents and grandparents. The fascinating beauty and interesting behaviour and life history of dragonflies and the threats to their habitats are of utmost importance in the dry continent of Australia.

The launch of the stunningly illustrated stamp collection, which included five images representing both suborders (Zygoptera and Anisoptera) of Odonata, was held in the dragonfly display at an insect exhibition in the Melbourne Museum of Victoria. The stamps featured the genera *Rhyothemis*, *Petalura*, *Diplacodes*, *Diphlebia*, and *Ictinogomphus*. The launch involved media photography and filming with a group of very enthusiastic children who were engaged in a live discussion about the relationships between dragonflies, their environment, and other animals including humans.

This exemplary effort by Australia Post in highlighting the beauty and importance of dragonflies to a public audience is greatly appreciated and applauded. The stamp series is currently for sale in Australia while stocks last. Odonatologists and Philatelists unite, as dragonflies travel through the mail, and into stamp collections around the country, visit [www.auspost.com.au/stamps].

Figures 1-6. (1-4) Gunther Theischinger with members of Australia Post family. (5) Sharla's (age 5) enthusiasm for the jewel flutterer is apparent and landed her in the local Herald Sun newspaper. (6) The Dragonflies - Stamp Collecting Month 2017 mini-sheet consisting of the five stamps incorporated into a miniature stamp sheet.

