

AUSTRALIAN BUTTERFLIES

On 3 May 2016, Australia Post issued a set of four stamps depicting spectacular Australian butterfly species: the Pale Triangle (*Graphium eurypylus*), the Bordered Rustic (*Cupha prosope*), the Cairns Birdwing (*Ornithoptera euphorion*) and the Chequered Swallowtail (*Papilio demoleus*).

The three domestic base-rate (\$1) and one international rate (\$2.75) stamps were designed by Sharon Rodziewicz from Australia Post Design Studio and printed by EgoTrade Pty Ltd. Each stamp was issued in a pane of 50 and measures 37.5mm × 26mm. The sheet stamps are perforated 13.86×14.6.

In addition to the sheets stamps, the four designs appear in a MS/4. The \$2.75 stamp was also issued in a MS/5. There is also a booklet of 20 containing the \$1 stamps in a self-adhesive pane. The booklet has six of the *O. euphorion* design and seven each of the other two designs in checkerboard format.

The three \$1 stamps are also available in a roll of 100 self-adhesive stamps. There is also a set of four maxicards each duplicating the design of one of the stamps.



Pale Triangle (*Graphium eurypylus*) is a large and eye-catching butterfly. The species is part of the *Graphium* genus of swallowtails, of which only six of the almost 90 species occur in Australia.



Bordered Rustic (*Cupha prosope*) is a medium-sized butterfly. It is seen in sunny areas, small clearings, along creeks, and at the edges of thick rainforest in some coastal areas of New South Wales and Queensland.



Cairns Birdwing (*Ornithoptera euphorion*) is boldly colored and is found only in coastal and montane rainforest areas of northeast Queensland. The female of the species is the largest butterfly found in Australia, with a wingspan of around 15 to 20 centimeters.



Chequered Swallowtail, also called Citrus Swallowtail (*Papilio demoleus*), is a large butterfly, found in most parts of mainland Australia as well as on Lord Howe Island. Its larvae feed on a wide variety of Cullen species, groundcover plants or shrubs that occur in the arid and tropical zones of northern Australia.