

Tonga Provisional Overprints 2008-10

	Description	Earliest Use	Scott	Gibbons	Michel
30s on 55s Handstamped					
Tonga					
H1	Commonwealth Membership	16-Jul-08	1040	1484	1584
Niuafu'ou					
H2	Blue Crowned Lorikeet		203	271	327
H3	Christmas	2-Jul-08	211	282	343
H4	Butterfly (jaimides brochus)				
Printed					
Tonga					
P1	Tourism Vava'u Double printing	10-Nov-08	1019	1454	1552
P2	Henga	19-Nov-09	999	1432	1528
P3	Black Duck and Grey Mullet	25-Feb-10	1049	1493	1596A
70s on 55s					
Tonga					
P4	Men Dancers	3-Jun-10	1045	1489	1592
Niuafu'ou					
P5	Blue Crowned Lorikeet	10-May-10	203	271	327
P6	Barn Owl	10-May-10	235	308	383

Coronation Issue

1 Aug 2008

		Scott	Gibbons	Michel	EKU
1.	0.30	1144	?	1732	18 August
2.	1.00	1145	?	1733	--
3.	5.00	1146	?	1734	--

Tonga 2008 Provisionals

In 2008 the Post Office increased the domestic postage rate to 30s from 20s. In short order they ran out of 30s stamps. For a month or two the post office merely cancelled the mail as paid...but this was terrible for accounting purposes....no one could tell what monies were really coming in.

As the Post Office (or the Treasury) has done in the past for stamp duty issues, they revalued 55s stamps to 30s by means of a handstamp to obliterate the old and then added 30s by means of another handstamp. Three stamps were done this way. While these have been seen on the mail, none have been seen available for sale. It would seem that the post office sold them on an as needed basis and applied them directly to the mail. This was a short term solution that lasted for the month of July.

In August of 2008, the King was Coronated and a new set of stamps including a 30s value were issued.

In the mean time, the post office had another 55s stamp revalued to 30s - this time by the government printer- and these were available for sale over the counter starting in November 2008. Both of these stamps were used concurrently until about May 2009 when the revalued stock ran out.

In November 2009 the Henga 55s stamp (which was heavily used in the 2002 to 2004 overprinting series) was revalued to 30s. In February 2010 another 55s stamp was released revalued to 30s.

In May and again in June 2010 three stamps were revalued to 70s- the international postcard rate. Again it is a 55s stamp used for the changes.

It would seem that the reason why only 55 s stamps are used is because for accounting purposes it makes it easier to tally up. They are probably just thinking give me 10,000 55s stamps revalued to 30s (or 70s)....and the printer figures it out from there.

Most businesses in Tonga are now hand delivering mail for two reasons- because of the 2008 price increase and because it is very slow (takes a week for local mail to get delivered seems to be the complaint) and my sense is that local postal use has plummeted.

February 2, 2012

Tonga 2008-10 Provisionals

July 2008



H1



H4



H2



H3

Tonga 2008 Coronation

August 1, 2008



1



2



3