

QANTAS SURVEY FLIGHT 1951

A QANTAS Catalina left Sydney on 25 May 1951 and arrived Cocos 30 May with a team to survey the airstrip. A small mail was carried.

This item was not on the return flight (possibly due to the writer's wish to have a Parkin cachet).

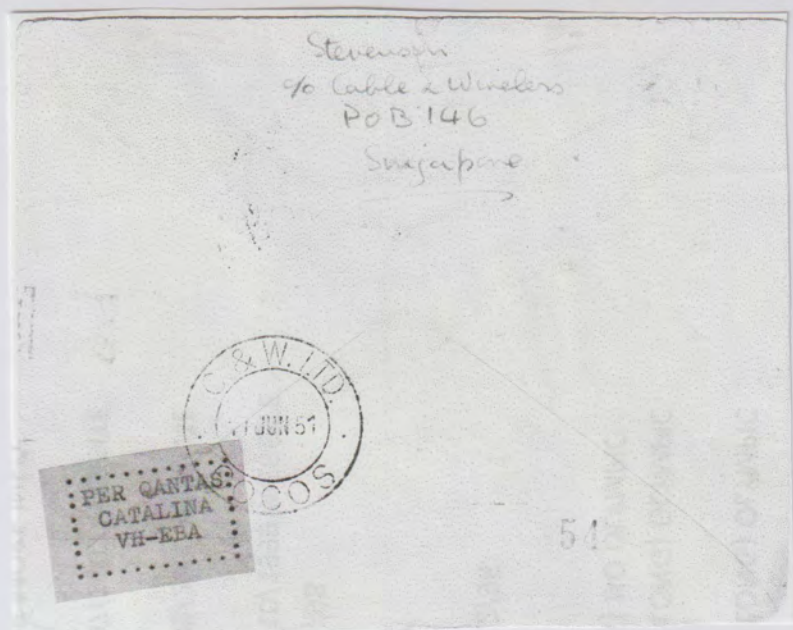
Per RMS Orion 12 August 1951, boxed Tin Can Mail Cocos Keeling Is, Perth 17 August 1951



QANTAS SURVEY FLIGHT RETURN

It was decided to reopen the Cocos airstrip (closed since 1946) and a QANTAS Catalina left Sydney on 30 May 1951 for Cocos via Darwin and Jakarta. It carried about 20 covers. This cover from Singapore may have been one of about 40 sent to Darwin to connect with the flight.

Struck with Leigh Parkin 'Lightning Bolt' air mail cachet,
second C&W Cocos cachet 11 June 1951, Sydney 20 June

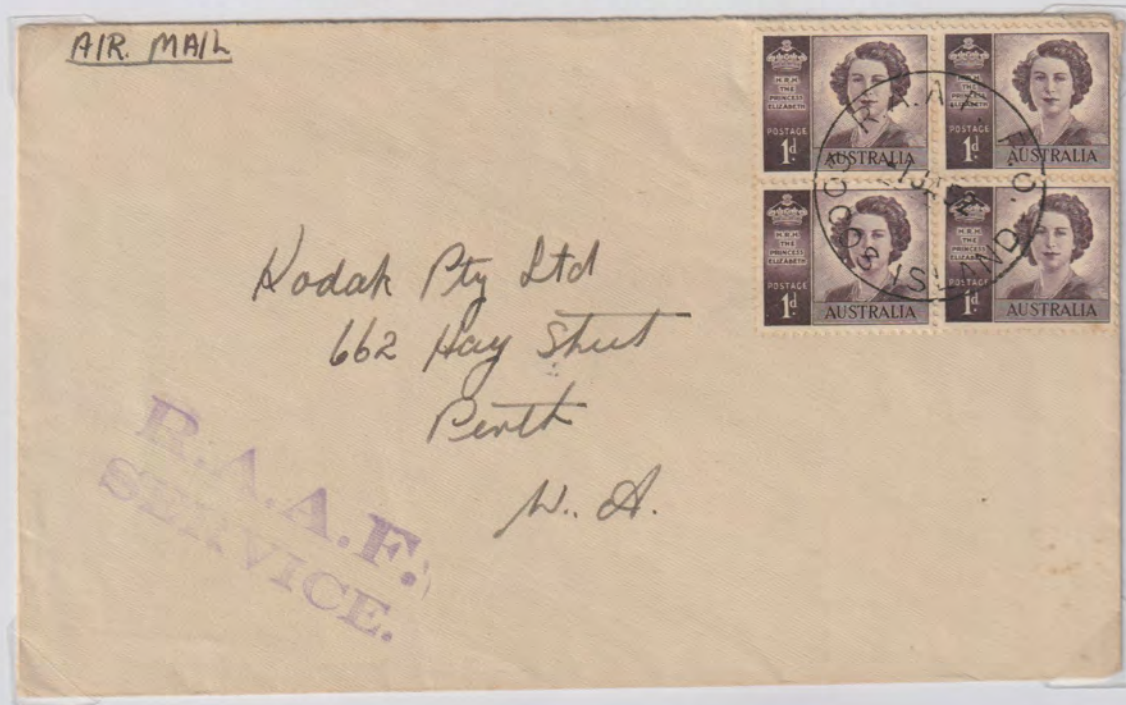


EMERGENCY FLIGHT 1952

"The first incoming mail, quite small, was carried to the Cocos Islands on a Lincoln bomber from Pearce (sic) WA on 2 January 1952, the aircraft having been sent to transport an injured airman back to Australia. The opportunity was taken by the RAAF postmaster to make up a small mail for the return flight on the following day." Collas and Hill (1991, p. 25)

Four pence forces concessional airmail rate. Four covers carried.

RAAF PO Cocos Island 1 January 1952, RAAF Service cachet



RAAF No. 2 Airfield Construction Squadron landed on Cocos on 19 December 1951 to rebuild the airstrip to service QANTAS flights to South Africa and RAF transport aircraft for the weapons research establishment at Salisbury and Woomera, South Australia. RAAF PO Cocos Island opened on 24 December 1951 for use by civilians, RAAF construction personnel and RAF personnel in transit. After September 2 1952, use was restricted to forces personnel. It closed on 21 January 1954.

EMERGENCY FLIGHT 1952

Like the other Emergency Flight cover, this envelope is sealed with an Air Power label.
Addressed to King island, Bass Straight (sic)
RAAF PO Cocos Island 1 January 1952



4 covers carried

1952 QANTAS COURIER SERVICE 1 AND 2

QANTAS used a DC-6 aircraft to provide a fortnightly courier service to support RAAF construction personnel. The first flight left Cocos on 2 February 1952.

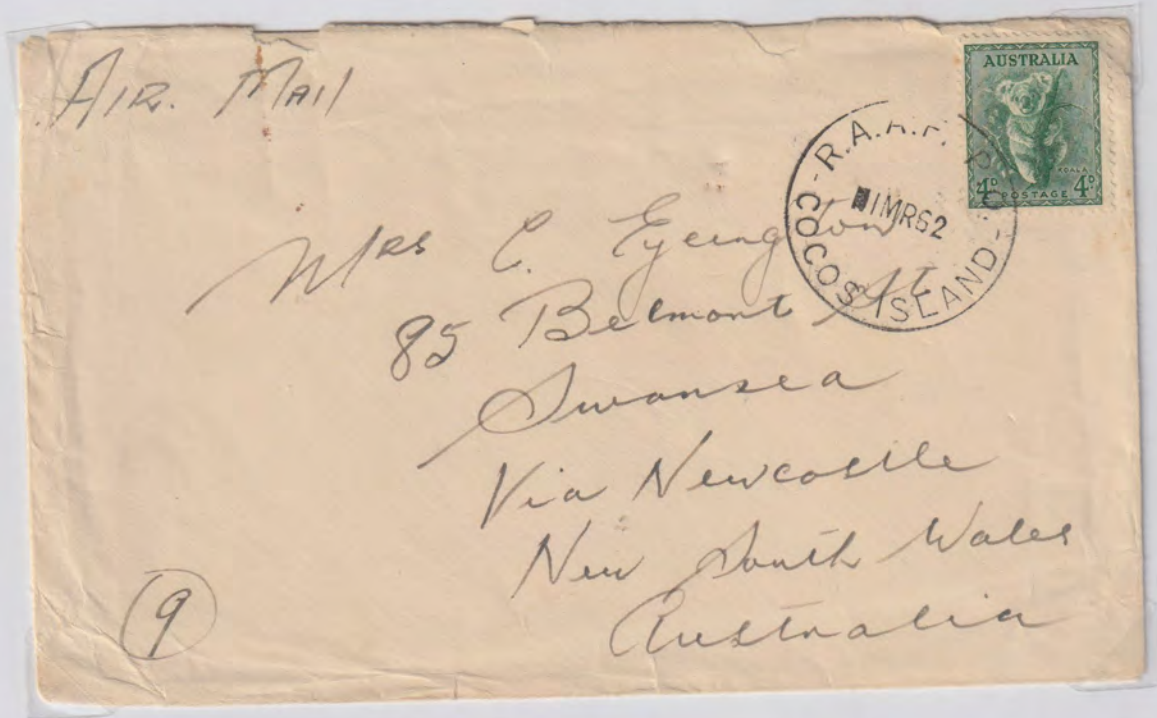
RAAF PO
Cocos Island
31 January 1952



This cover missed the first flight but went on the second.

1952 QANTAS COURIER SERVICE 3 AND 5

RAAF PO Cocos Island 1 March 1952



RAAF PO Cocos Island 20 March 1952

1952 QANTAS COURIER SERVICE 6

RAAF PO Cocos Island 10 April 1952



RAAF PO Cocos Island 11 April 1952, Sydney 15 April, Melbourne 16 April

1952 QANTAS COURIER SERVICE 7

RAAF PO Cocos Island 16 April 1952



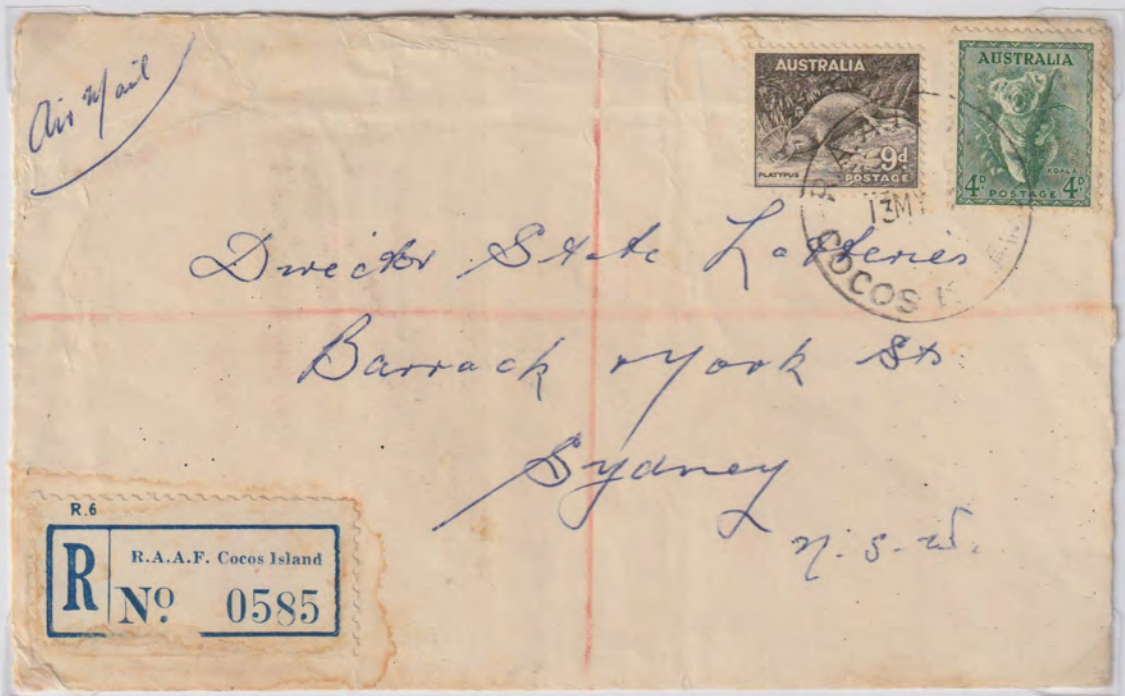
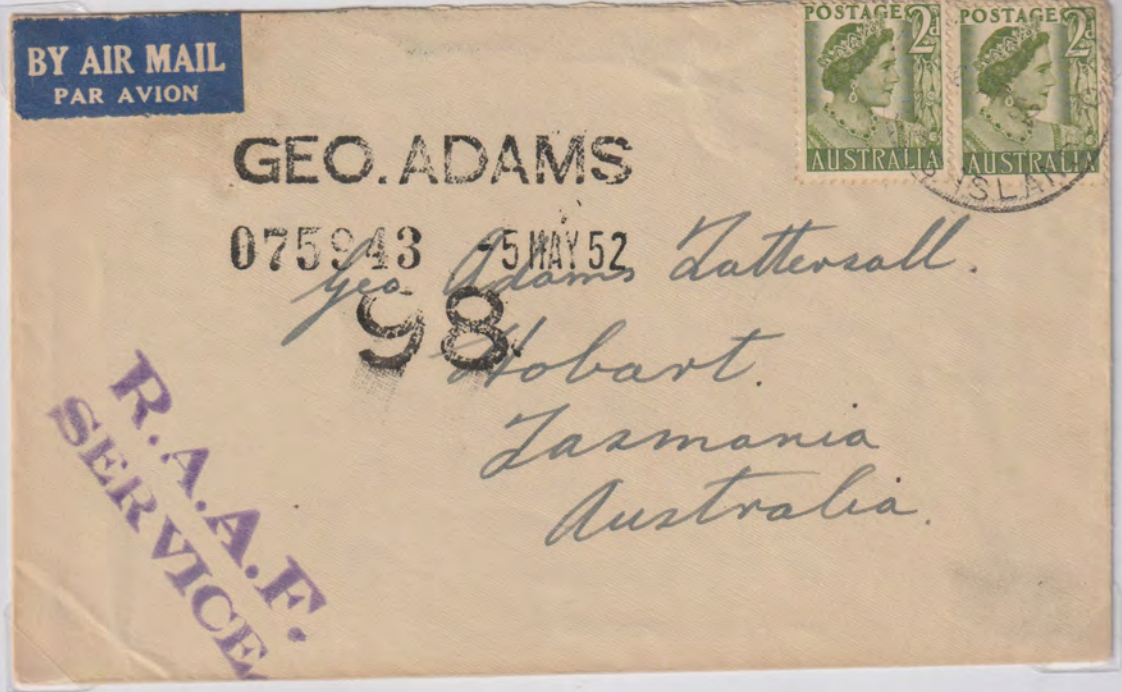
RAA F PO Cocos Island 24 April 1952

Rex Allison generated a quantity of philatelic covers to be serviced by RAAF PO Cocos and he received a terse rebuke from the Sergeant in charge of the PO that the PO was "not there to service philatelic mail."

Mss tax mark T 1/10d for 11 covers underpaid 1d as the sender was not eligible for forces concession postage. The charge was either annulled or paid.

1952 QANTAS COURIER SERVICE 8 AND 9

RAAF PO Cocos Island 2 May 1952



RAAF PO Cocos Island 13 May, Sydney 28 May

Probable civilian use

1952 QANTAS COURIER SERVICE 10 AND 11

Second 4d stamp added, after first was cancelled, to make New Zealand rate.
RAAF PO Cocos Island 4 June 1952



1952 QANTAS COURIER SERVICE 12

Probable civilian use at concession rate.

RAAF PO Cocos Island 1 July 1952



RAAF PO Cocos Island 4 July 1952

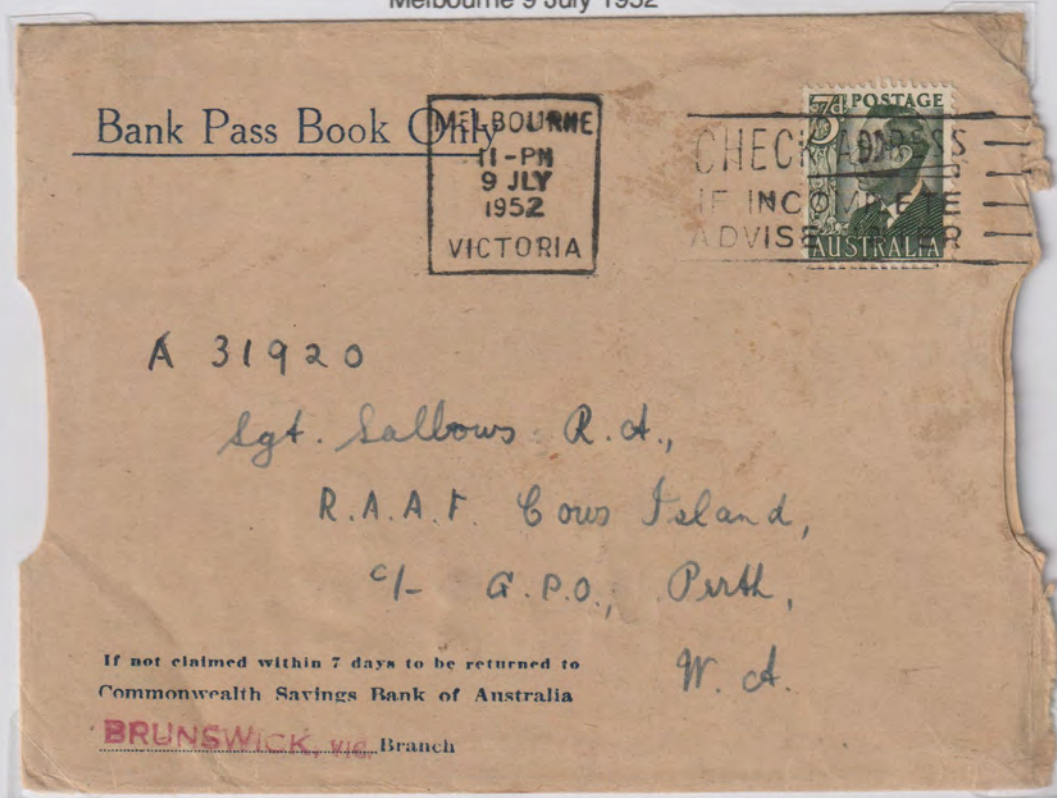
RAF personnel in transit using British stamps for forces concession rate.

1952 QANTAS COURIER SERVICE 13

The circular advice to Australian postmasters, at the end of 1951, mentioned that the air courier service would be '... limited to the carriage of first class mail matter, but second, third and fourth class matter may be carried if space is available...' The circular also mentioned that the correct address for RAAF personnel on the islands is No. 2 A.C.S. RAAF Care GPO Perth. (Collas and Hill, 1991, p. 15)

Only recorded cover to RAAF construction personnel.

Melbourne 9 July 1952

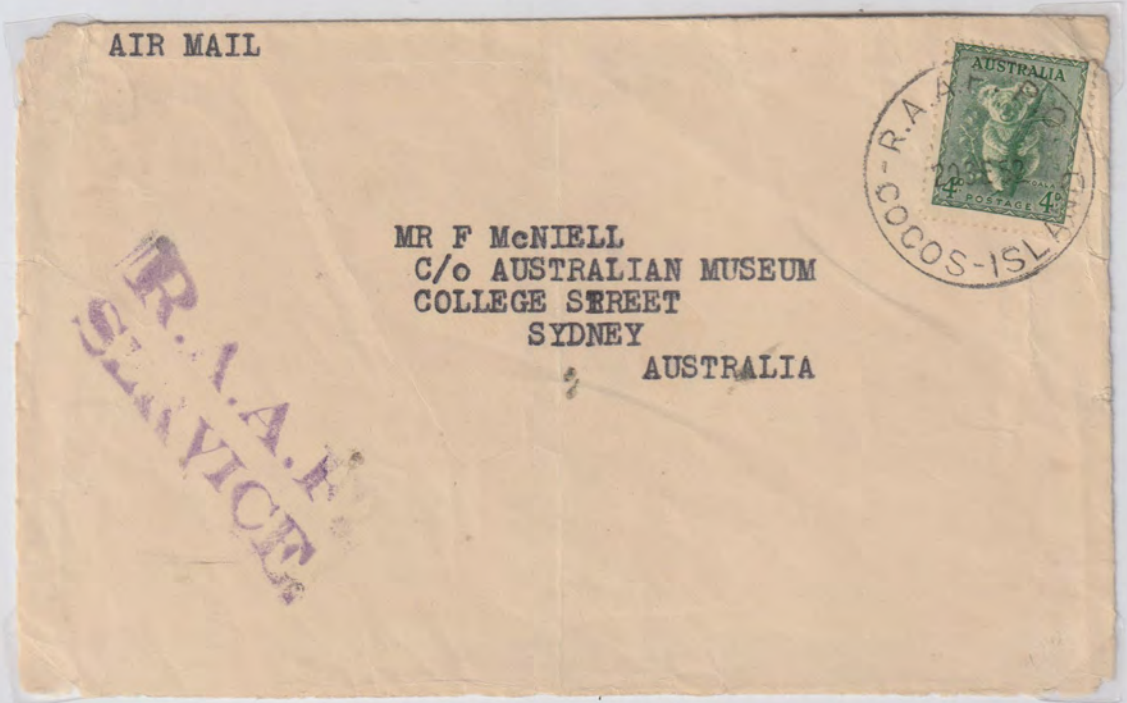


RAAF PO Cocos Island 16 July 1952, Middle Ridge 21 July

1952 QANTAS COURIER SERVICE 15

Last QANTAS courier flight 15 departed Cocos on 16 August and RAAF took over supply transport as required.

RAAF PO Cocos Island 12 August 1952



20 September 1952

RAAF TRANSPORT 1952

THIRD SCHEDULED AIR SERVICE VIA COCOS 1952

QANTAS Lockheed Constellation left Sydney en route to Johannesburg via Perth, Cocos and Mauritius on 1 September 1952. Ex Sydney it carried 28,621 philatelic items. Although the RAAF post office was not on Australian soil, it used Australian stamps and Australian postage rates. This was the last occasion that civilian use of the RAAF PO was authorised.

RAAF PO Cocos Island 2 September 1952, Johannesburg 4 September, Johannesburg 6 September, RAAF PO Cocos Island 9 September



Cocos-Keeling Island
9 September

Earliest recorded use of Cocos-Keeling datestamp. Outward cachet applied to return cover

THIRD SCHEDULED AIR SERVICE VIA COCOS 1952

2/- airmail one way, 4/- airmail return

RAAF PO Cocos Island 1 September 1952, Port Louis 3 September



RAAF PO Cocos Island 1 September 1952, Port Louis 3 September, RAAF Cocos Island 8 September
Note: These covers cancelled a day earlier than those on previous page.

THIRD SCHEDULED AIR SERVICE VIA COCOS 1952

Pilot signature, Johannesburg 6 September 1952, RAAF PO Cocos Island 8 September



Port Louis 6 September 1952, RAAF PO Cocos Island 8 September, Port Louis 17 September
Two different return cachets with names and symbols reversed.