



# Year of the Pig

February 2007

**New Zealand Post**





Although not native to New Zealand, pigs have been part of our landscape for more than 200 years. In 1769, French explorer Jean François-Marie de Surville gave two piglets to a Māori chief, and within five years English navigator James Cook had brought more to our shores. Since then, pigs have become more than just livestock – for many Kiwis they are family pets.

In this delightful stamp issue – and in celebration of the Chinese Year of the Pig in 2007 – we look at three pigs that New Zealand is proud to call its own. All three are remnants of earlier introductions that have, through isolation, developed unique qualities and characteristics – and along the way, gained enthusiastic support that has ensured their survival in a world where commercial production considerations would have ended their continued existence.



#### 45c – Kunekune pig

The endearingly cute kunekune (the Māori word for 'plump') is the most popular of New Zealand's non-commercial pig breeds.

With its rotund, pot-bellied body, short legs, upturned snout and lower-jaw 'tassels', it has a wonderfully comical appearance – and its placid and intelligent nature, combined with a passion for food and a good scratch, makes it an adorable and adored pet.



#### 90c – Kunekune pig

Kunekune pigs, which are almost certainly of Asian origin, were probably introduced to New Zealand by whalers or traders very early in European settlement times. In 1984,

18 were collected to become part of a captive breeding programme, and most of the kunekunes found in New Zealand today are their descendants. Kunekunes have also been exported to proud owners in the United Kingdom, the United States and Europe.



#### \$1.35 – Arapawa pig

No one really knows the exact origin of how the feral pigs of Arapawa Island (in the Marlborough Sounds) got there, but it has been suggested that they are descendants

of animals released in the area by James Cook in 1773 and 1777. Once critically endangered, they are now protected by the Arapawa Wildlife Sanctuary, a 120-hectare park that's home to about 100 globally endangered animals. However, there are thought to be no more than 100 Arapawa pigs both on and off the Island, so the survival of this rare breed is by no means assured.



#### \$1.50 – Auckland Island pig

Pigs were introduced to Auckland Island (more than 300 kilometres south of New Zealand) in 1807 as a source of food for whalers and shipwrecked sailors.

Subsequent introductions led to a thriving population, which in the 1990s came under threat through a Department of Conservation extermination programme. Seventeen were rescued and brought back to the mainland where, thanks to a selective breeding programme, their future is looking bright.



#### \$2.00 – Kunekune pig

The kunekune pig featured on our \$2.00 stamp is Ruby, the Champion Junior Sow of the 2005 Canterbury A&P Show. Just five months old when this photograph was taken, she already displays the typical kunekune colouring, with shades of brown, black and cream. The texture of the coat changes with the season, often becoming thicker and longer in winter.

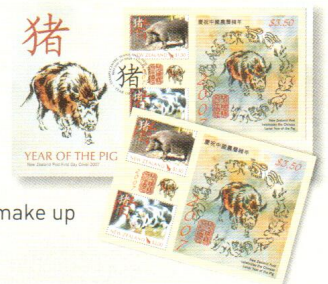
#### Gathering the herd

The first day cover for our new stamp issue combines the five stamps with a photograph of two kunekune pigs and the Chinese character for 'pig'.



#### A pair of porcine beauties

The Year of the Pig miniature sheet presents two of the five stamps in this issue – the \$2.00 kunekune pig and the \$1.50 Auckland Island pig – accompanied by an intricate illustration of the 12 animals that make up the Chinese Lunar Calendar.



The miniature sheet also features on a special first day cover – the 11th consecutive year that New Zealand Post has marked the Chinese Lunar Calendar in this way.



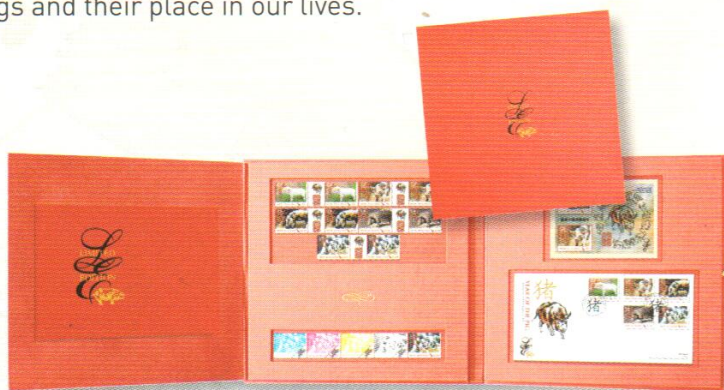
### Read all about it

For a more detailed look at New Zealand pigs – and the Year of the Pig – order your copy of this gorgeously rendered presentation pack. Combining the colours and styles of the East with our contemporary stamps, it's a wonderful way to acquire the five stamps, the miniature sheet and the two first day covers.



### And for the discerning collector...

We present the Year of the Pig Limited Edition, the most prestigious item in this collection and one eagerly anticipated by stamp enthusiasts already on the waiting list. Only 2000 of these beautiful packs have been produced. This Limited Edition contains a set of five stamps, a numbered Limited Edition first day cover, a miniature sheet, miniature sheet first day cover, colour separations of the \$2 stamp and detailed commentary on pigs and their place in our lives.



### Collector's Notes

#### Year of the Pig 2007

**Date of issue:** 7 February 2007. **Number of stamps:** Five gummed stamps. **Denominations and designs:** 45c, 90c, \$1.35, \$1.50, \$2.00. **Stamps and first day cover designed by:** Cue Design, Wellington. **Printer and process:** Australia Post, Sprintpak, by offset lithography. **Number of colours:** Four process colours. **Stamp size and format:** 40.28mm x 30mm (horizontal). **Paper type:** Tullis Russell Helecon 3336 Phosphor Stamp Paper. **Number of stamps per sheet:** 25. **Perforation gauge:** 14.0 x 14.4. **Special blocks:** Plate/imprint blocks may be obtained by purchasing at least six stamps from a sheet. Barcode, value blocks and logo blocks may be obtained by purchasing at least two stamps from a sheet. Barcode blocks are available in both A and B formats. **Period of sale:** Unless stocks are exhausted earlier, these stamps will remain on sale until close of business 6 February 2008.

For more information on the stamps and collectables from New Zealand Post, visit your local New Zealand Post retail outlet, see our website at [www.nzpost.co.nz/stamps](http://www.nzpost.co.nz/stamps), or contact the Stamps Centre, Private Bag 3001, Wanganui 4540, New Zealand. Telephone 64 6 349-1234; Fax 64 6 345-7120.

Please note: If you are not completely satisfied with your purchase for any reason, return it within 14 days and we will replace it or give you a refund. No questions asked!

