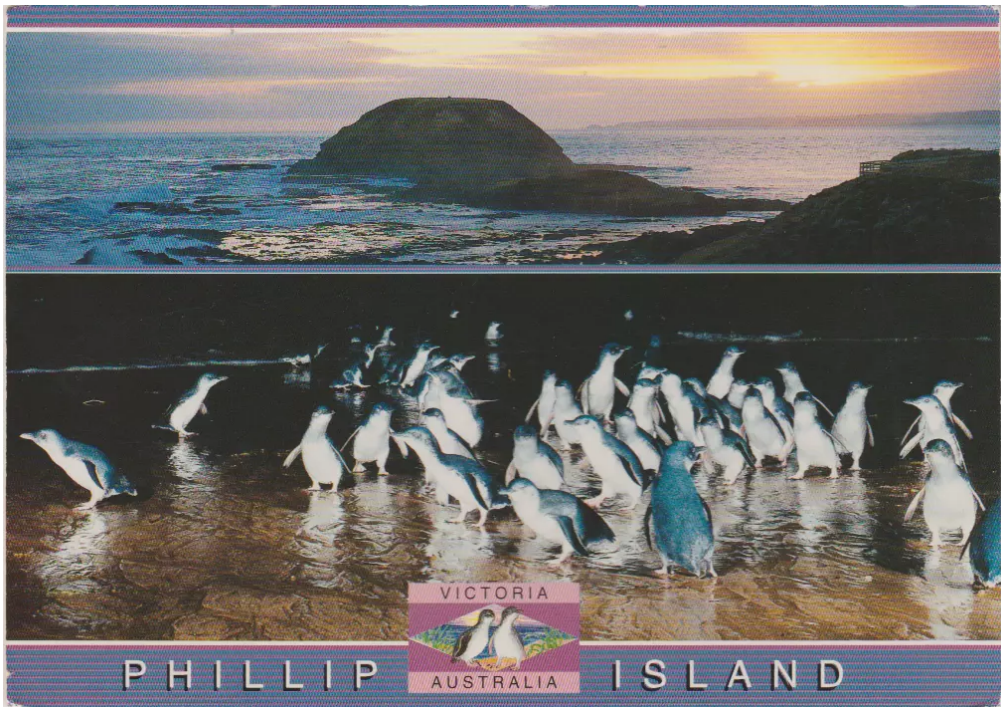
Little Penguins – Fairies of the Night

Brent Allred
brentallred60@gmail.com

Only slightly bigger than a bowling pin and weighing around 1.5 kg (3.3 lb), it's easy to see where little penguins (sometimes called fairy penguins or little blue penguins) get their name. Of the 18 penguin species around the world, little penguins *(Eudyptula minor)* are the smallest. They're also the only species of penguin with blue and white feathers.

New Zealand, 1964. 'Korora' is the Māori name for the little penguin

Little penguins are found along the coastlines of southern Australia and New Zealand, as well as the Chatham Islands, 800km (500 miles) off the east coast of New Zealand's South Island. They are night-loving penguins, returning to burrows in small groups at or after nightfall and departing to forage in the sea just before dawn.

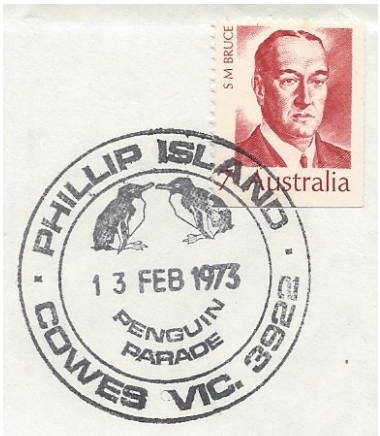


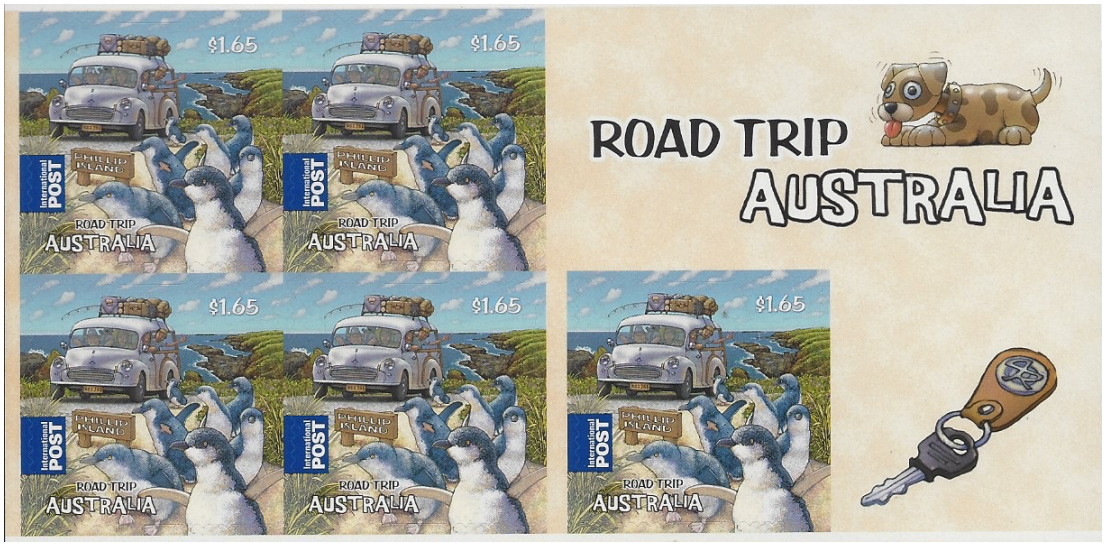
Commercial postcard from the 1990s, postally used. Reduced by 23%

Phillip Island, near Melbourne, is home to the world's largest colony of little penguins – 40,000 breeding penguins. Every night, people come to watch penguins return to their burrows.

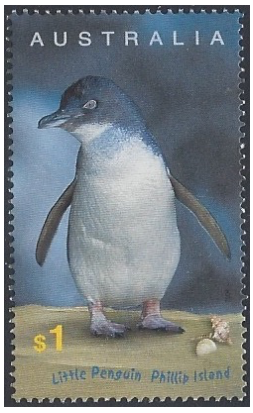
New Zealand, 2001

View a live stream of this amazing 'Penguin Parade' at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZiyRoD-hww





Australia, 2012. Reduced by 6%. This booklet was part of a series of stamps celebrating road trips around Australia. Of course, being nocturnal, penguins are never seen in groups like this during the day!



Australia, 2004