

The 1000 Yen phonocard was reportedly produced for the Japanese Tourist market and not released through Telstra collector services.

The number of these phonocards that were released is not clear, but it is rumoured to have been around 1000 cards printed. However only a fraction of that have been known by collectors.

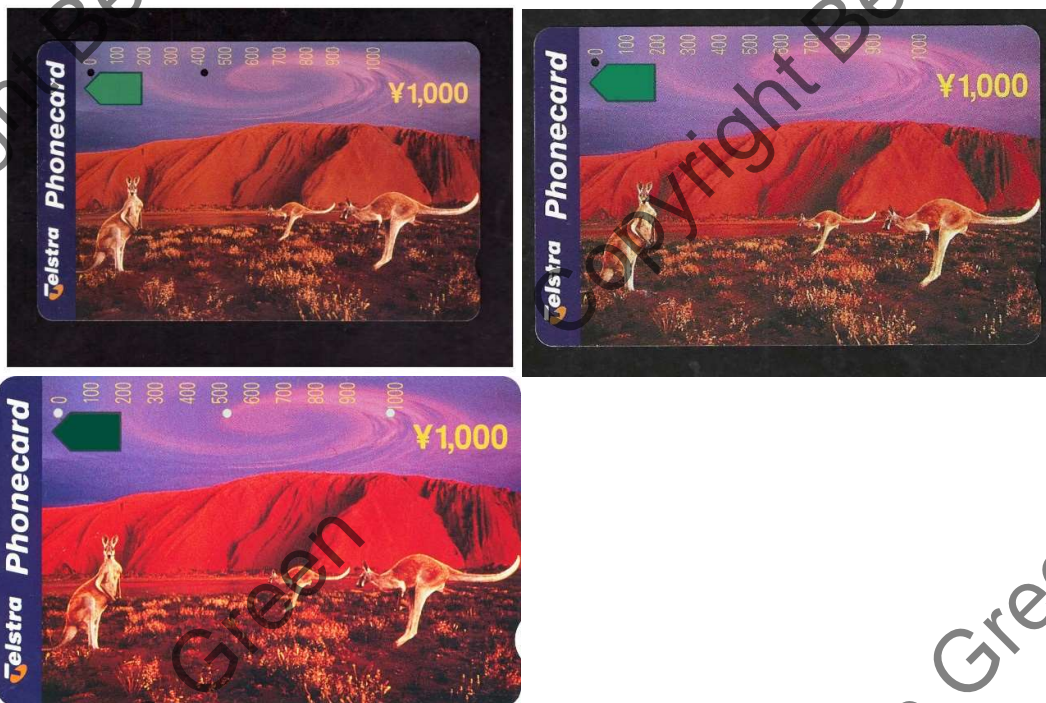
Bruce Hudson from the Melbourne Phonocard club was able to locate three of these used at the Weekend Stamp Traders in Little Burke St in Melbourne. It wasn't until after he got home that he realised that they were the 1000 Yen ones and not the common \$10 ones with the same design. Two of these were one hole and the other was a multi hole.

There was a person called Chris and his friend that went round checking phone boxes in and around Melbourne. As a result of checking these phone boxes they came across a few multi-holed cards and some that had been crunched up.

One of the 1-hole cards was sent to a fellow collector that Bruce knew in England. The location of this card is unknown as the collector that Bruce sent to has since passed away. The other 1-hole card was Auctioned in the Melbourne Phonocard Club auction some years ago by Bruce Hudson.

The multi-hole card was given to Bruce's nephew and the other one-hole card was kept by Bruce. A few years later Bruce's nephew sold his collection back to Bruce and the 1000 Yen card was offered to Ron Moss, and they agreed to a sale price.

Below are the photos of the three cards that have been provided by fellow collectors that have them in their collection.



Since the range of the above cards is from 0090910236 – 0090910279 it looks like that there were at least 11,000 phonocards printed.

A mint card has recently surfaced and was part of collection from a former employee of Telstra International. Their account of what happened to the cards is that they were sent over to Tokyo

(Japan) to hand out a “box” worth of these phonecards to Japanese tourists as they left for Australia. It is believed that the majority of these phonecards would have been put in with the rest of the memorabilia that the tourists would have had from their trip to Australia. With only a very select few of them being used during their stay within Australia. Hence the reason why till recently only used phonecards have been known about.

The number of the recently located mint phonecard is 0090910157, which is 100 cards prior to the other known cards. From this it may be assumed that the box that was taken to Tokyo may have had approximately 300 cards in it.

I would like to thank Bruce Hudson, Ron Moss, and Robert Luke that have assisted me with providing details and copies of the cards in their collections.