

'Clever Kiwis' postal stamps

New Zealanders have a remarkable history of turning great ideas into reality – creating 'world first' products and technology that transform our lives. Kiwi ingenuity is being celebrated in New Zealand Post's latest issue of stamps – Clever Kiwis. These stamps pay homage to the Kiwi can do attitude and innovations of some of our local inventors and globally successful entrepreneurs. The stamp artwork includes drawings from New Zealand patent specifications. Clever Kiwis 2007 stamps and first day covers can be purchased at all New Zealand Postshops, the Wanganui Stamp Centre and online line at [NZ Post Clever Kiwis stamps](#).



Colin Murdoch's Tranquilliser Gun

Designed in the late 1950s, this gun shoots a tranquiliser dose contained in a lightweight plastic syringe dart with a shuttlecock like tail. Colin was a pharmacist and came up with the idea whilst studying Himalayan thar. Catching, tagging and releasing animals became a lot safer for the researchers and the animals with this invention.



The Hamilton Jet Boat

Sir Bill Hamilton was instrumental in taking boat design and engineering to whole a new level. Hamilton Jet's innovative technology is ideal for navigating fast flowing shallow rivers. In 1960, the Hamilton 'waterjet' became the first boat to travel up through the Grand Canyon. Today Hamilton Jet's engines and boats are used around the world for recreation, rescue crafts and ferries.



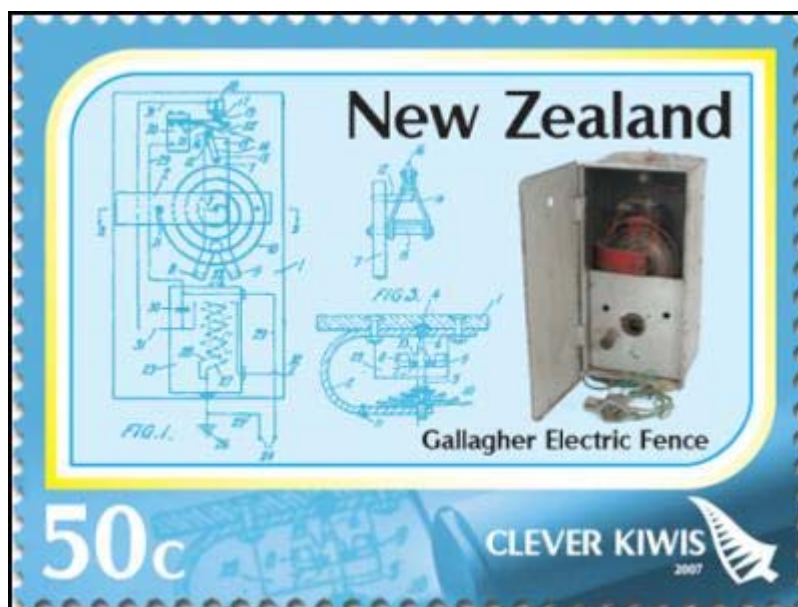
Spreadable butter

In the 1970's, the New Zealand Dairy Research Institute developed a better butter product that kept the same consistency at fridge temperature as it had at room temperature. The trade secret was not a special ingredient but what they took out – the fatty acid content that makes the traditional butter recipe hard in the fridge or melt when it's left out for too long. It took 15 years to refine and upscale the manufacturing process. A great deal of effort went in creating a rival butter product to margarine.



The Mountain Buggy

Allan Croad wanted to go for his daily evening jog and give busy wife, Adrienne, a break from taking care of their then young son Fraser. The first garage built prototype was made from a second hand golf trundler and child car seat. The patented commercial model (NZ Pat No. 280227) is stronger, lighter, more stable and easier to steer and fold than conventional prams making it an all-terrain pushchair.



The Gallagher Electric Fence

In the 1930s, Bill Gallagher came up with a powerful deterrent to stop a horse on his farm named Joe scratching itself on the family car. He invented an electric circuit that delivered an electric shock whenever the horse rocked the car. Gallagher's cheap, reliable alternative to conventional fencing became a commercial success and the Gallagher Group continues to be a global market leader in electric fence technology.

Books:

No. 8 Wire – The Best of Kiwi ingenuity by Jon Bridges & David Downs
ISBN 1-86958-820-7

The Ballad of Bill Hamilton by Tony Kean
ISBN 0-473-08964-5

Kiwi Ingenuity – A Book of New Zealand Ideas and Inventions by Bob Riley
ISBN 0-9583334-4-0

Inventions from the Shed by Jim Hopkins
ISBN 1-86950-323-6

Learn From The Past, Create The Future: Inventions and Patents
World Intellectual Property Office
ISBN 92-805-1431-8

Television Series:

Inventions From The Shed directed by Peter Barrett. (Documentary)
Produced by Frame Up Films Ltd.
Release date 18 June 2001.

Let's Get Inventin (Children's television series)
Produced by Television Spaceman
Release date 3 August 2006

Websites:

New Zealand Heroes	www.nzedge.com/heroes/
Let's Get Inventin	www.younginventors.tv/
Enterprise education	www.tki.org.nz/r/education_for_enterprise/
Inventions in everyday life	www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/athome.htm
Inventors	http://inventors.about.com
Inventions	www.howstuffworks.com