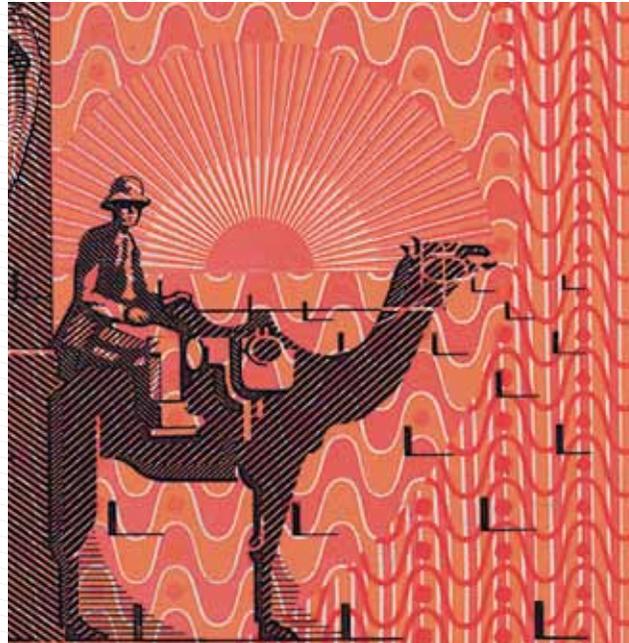


Australia's banknotes represented a world first in currency manufacturing – they were the first full series to be printed on polymer (plastic). Polymer banknote technology was developed in Australia, jointly by the Reserve Bank and the CSIRO. The reason for introducing polymer banknotes was simple – to keep one step ahead of counterfeiters by making Australia's banknotes more secure. Polymer banknotes have the added benefit of being more durable than paper banknotes which, in turn, makes them more cost-effective.

The designs of the banknotes celebrate the diversity of Australia's social, cultural and scientific achievements.

The \$20 polymer banknote was first issued on 31 October 1994.



## Dealing with suspect banknotes

It is an offence to knowingly possess counterfeits. Suspect banknotes should be given to State or Federal police.

If you have concerns about a banknote, you are within your rights to refuse to accept it.

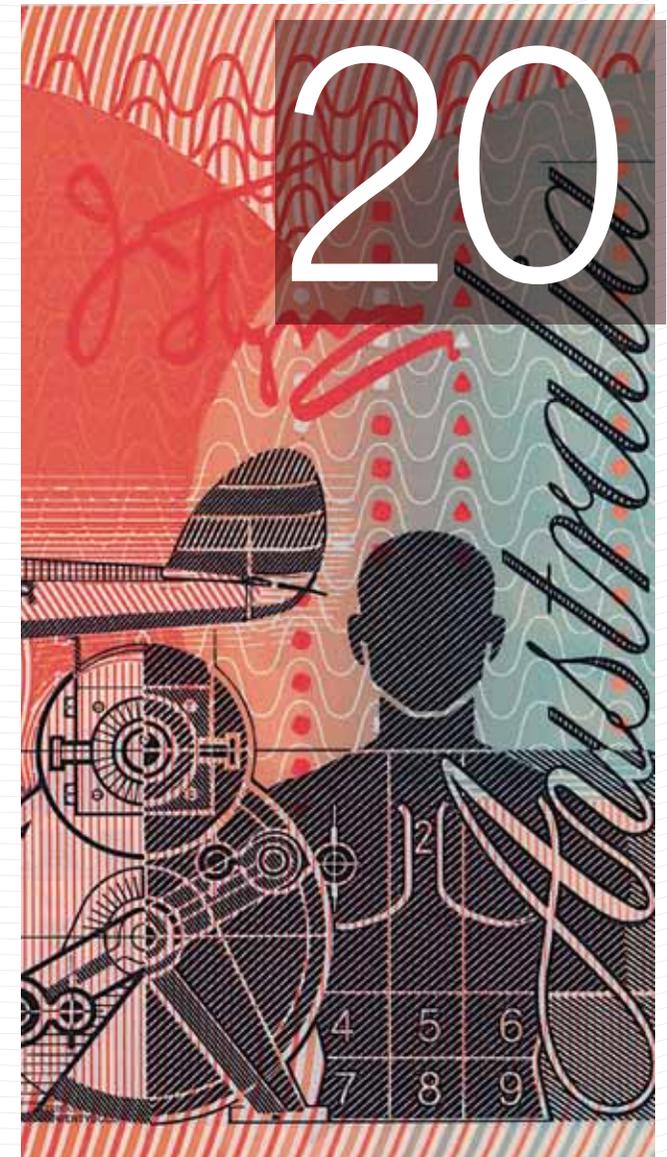
If you suspect a banknote is counterfeit:

- Handle it as little as possible.
- Note relevant information, such as how it came into your possession.
- Report the matter immediately to the police.

Do not take actions that may jeopardise your safety or the safety of others.

If the suspect banknote is found to be genuine, you will receive full value for it.

# AUSTRALIA'S BANKNOTES



# AUSTRALIA'S BANKNOTES

## \$20 banknote

### Who's who on the \$20 banknote

Mary Reibey built substantial business interests in property and shipping operations. Having assumed responsibility for her husband's enterprises after his death in 1811 and subsequently expanding them, Reibey earned a reputation as an astute and successful businesswoman in the colony of New South Wales. In later life, she became known for her charitable work and interest in the church and education. Images of the schooner *Mercury* and a building in George Street, Sydney, both of which Reibey owned, are shown on the banknote.

Reverend John Flynn pioneered the world's first aerial medical service, now known as the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Flynn was instrumental in establishing the Presbyterian Church's Australian Inland Mission, a network of nursing hostels. Keenly aware of the isolation of the people of inland Australia, he believed that a 'mantle of safety' could only be created through an aerial medical service and the introduction of radio communications. Despite many setbacks, Flynn's vision became a reality when the DeHavilland 50 aircraft *Victory* (pictured on the banknote) embarked on the maiden flight in 1928.

#### Did you know?

Mary Reibey was a convict, sentenced to seven years transportation when she was just 13 for stealing a horse. She was disguised as a boy at the time, assuming the identity 'James Burrow'.

#### Did you know?

The camel shown on the banknote represents one of five camels purchased by Reverend John Flynn in 1913 for his Patrol Padres, who undertook mission work throughout central Australia.

### Is your banknote genuine?

- Always check a range of security features – don't rely on only one or two.
- It can be useful to compare a suspect banknote with one you know is genuine. Look for differences.
- All Australian banknotes have similar security features, though their location can vary.

#### 1. Feel the banknote

Australian banknotes are printed on plastic and have a distinct feel. The dark printing is produced with a special raised ink that can be felt with your finger.

#### 2. Check the clear window

The clear window should be part of the banknote and not an addition. Check that the white image of a compass cannot be easily rubbed off and look for the clear embossing of the number '20'.

#### 3. Look for the star

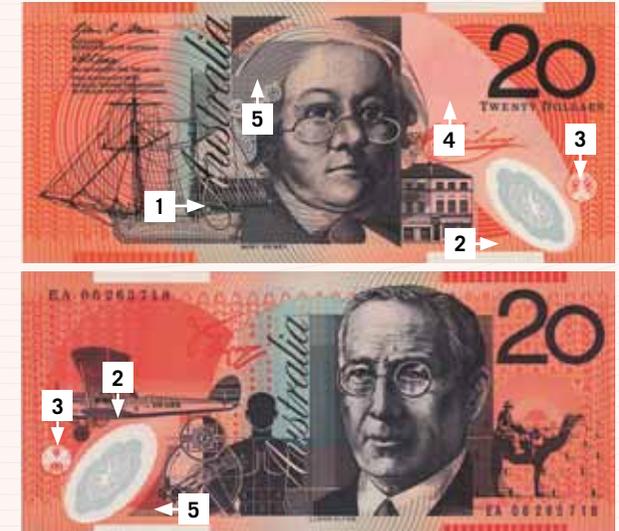
Diamond-shaped patterns are printed inside a circle on each side of the banknote. When the banknote is held up to the light, the patterns should line up perfectly to form a seven-pointed star.

#### 4. Check the shadow image

A hidden image of the Australian Coat of Arms to the right of Mary Reibey's portrait can be seen when the banknote is held up to the light.

#### 5. Look for the microprinting

Under a magnifying glass you will see tiny, clearly defined words that read 'TWENTY DOLLARS'.



Actual banknote dimensions: 65 mm x 144 mm (images not to scale)

### Examine the plastic

It is difficult to start a tear along the edge of a genuine banknote. You can also try scrunching it in your hand – a genuine banknote should spring back when you release it.

### Check the print quality

The background printing should be sharp. Check for irregularities such as less clearly defined patterns, thicker or thinner lines, or colour differences.

### Look at the banknote under UV light

The serial numbers on a genuine banknote will glow under ultraviolet light, along with a patch showing the value i.e. '20'. The rest of the banknote should not glow under this light.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call: 1800 633 220

8.30 am – 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday

Email: [banknotes@rba.gov.au](mailto:banknotes@rba.gov.au)

Website: [banknotes.rba.gov.au](http://banknotes.rba.gov.au)