

Postcards to the Front

International Newsletter

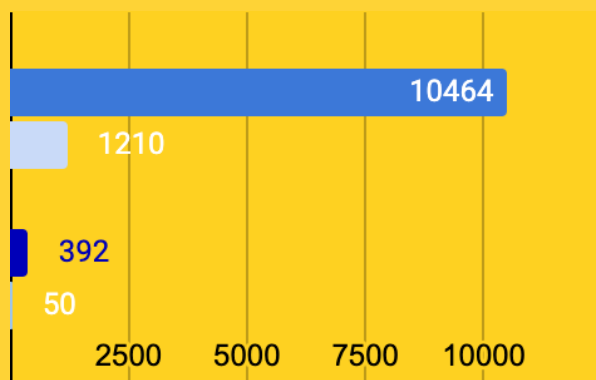
March 2024

Ukraine
Australia
Canada
United Kingdom



Volume 1
Issue 8

A Month in Postcards



This month our postcard warriors from Australia sent 1,210 cards, and from UK sent 50 cards. Australia's total sent is now 10,464 cards, and UK's total sent is now 392.

Please keep the cards coming; the Defenders will treasure them!

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About

Postcards to the Front International Newsletter is a monthly publication of the project **Postcards to the Front**. Founded by three Ukrainian women shortly after Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, the idea of sending messages of support and encouragement to the frontline Defenders of Ukraine spread out on [Postcrossing.com](https://www.postcrossing.com) – an international postcard exchange platform. Branches of *Postcards to the Front* have been established in Australia, Canada and United Kingdom.

Defender personnel, including medics, mechanics, drivers, cooks, etc., receive postcards in their care packages. While each bit of happy mail makes a huge difference in the psychological well-being of the front line Defenders, messages and pictures from children are especially heartwarming. Your support makes a difference. Thank you!

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author, and not the opinion of this newsletter nor affiliated websites. Authors take responsibility for correct citations of sources and references, both oral and text.

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Australia Branch News and Updates

By Peter

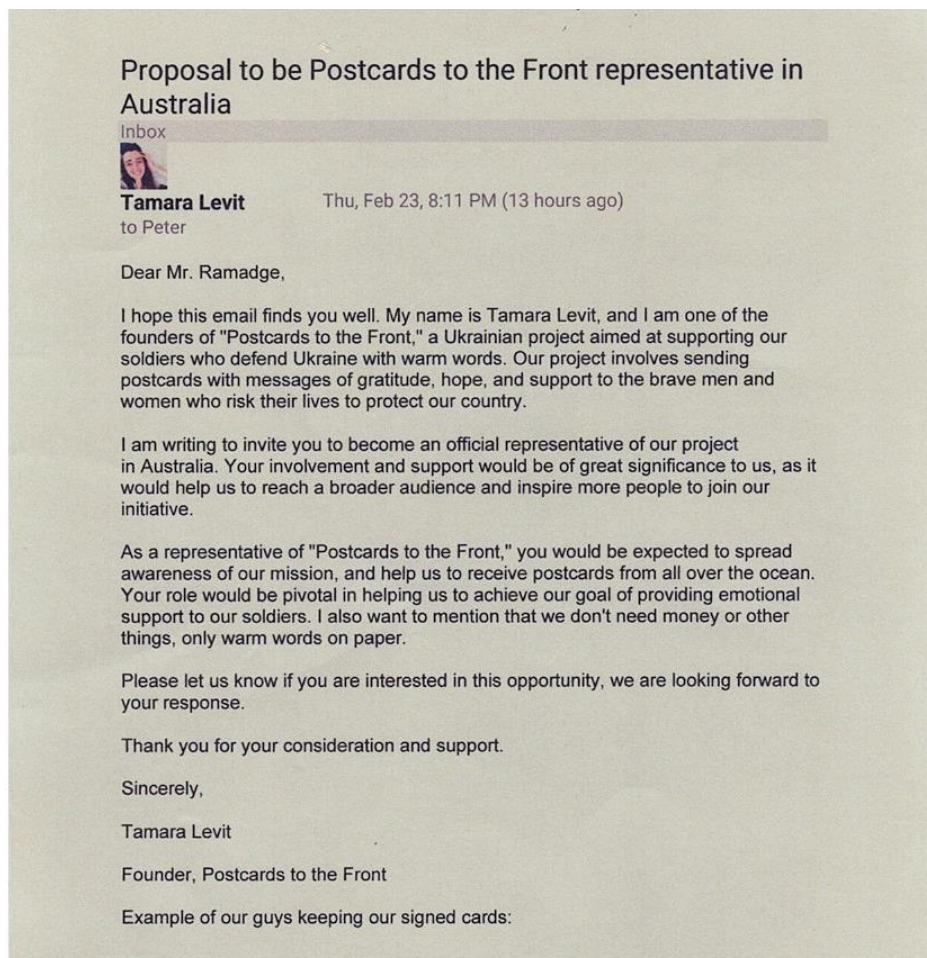
> Reaching 10,000 cards in 12 Months

Package MEL 123 posted to Ukraine on the 13th of March had great significance for Postcard Warriors from Australia. It contained the 10,000th card that we have sent to Ukraine (plus a few more to guard it). Yes 10,000 cards within the first 12 months of us starting up. An incredible milestone for everyone involved.

Thing started discussing stuff with Tamara via Postcrossing and then email in Feb 2023. I sent her an email asking her how I could get some money to her. Her response was the first time I had ever been Zelenskyed.

I don't need your money. All I need is more postcards.

So in February Postcards to the Front Australia was born.





Peter Ramadge
to Tamara

10:08 AM (4 minutes ago)

Tamara

I am privileged to accept this voluntary position

The next 3 weeks were so hectic. Thank goodness I had Anne, Queen of the Hounds (Our Corporate Sponsor (<https://www.queenofthehounds.com.au/>)) to help me. We hassled friends, neighbours, relatives and strangers to write cards. On the 14th of March we managed to get 94 cards into a large envelope and post it to Tamara.

The 13th of March 2024 represented 12 months of operations for us, with 10,078 cards sent in the first year. A gold medal performance from our Team.

It is a mind-boggling number of cards that the Team has sent. 10,078 personal messages of support sent to Defenders on the Front lines.

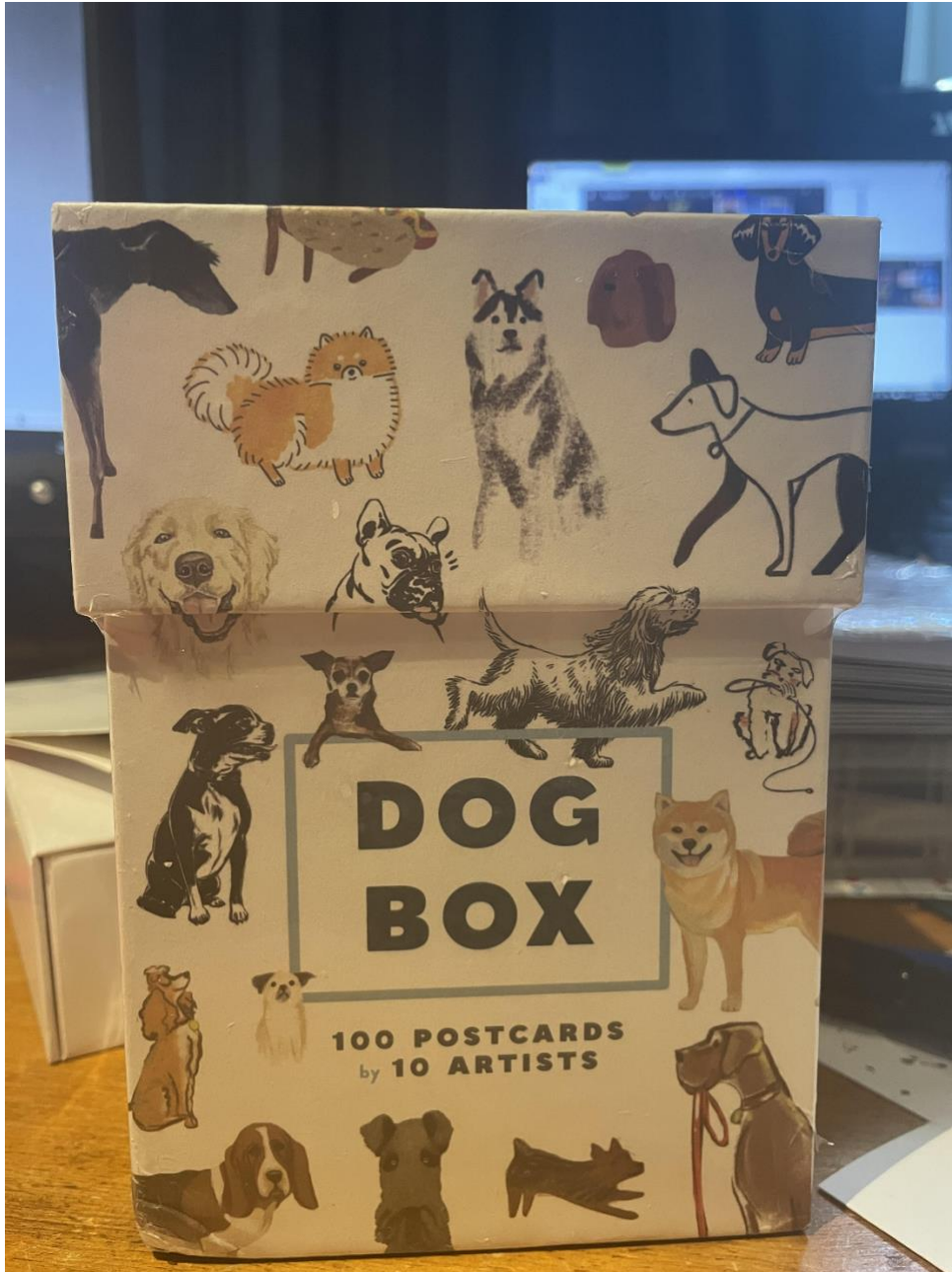
With the average weight of 6 grams for a card another way to think about it is 60.5 Kgs of support.

I have no words that can express what a fabulous support everyone has given to the Postcards to the Front project.

Like all of us my greatest hope is that soon we won't have to send cards anymore.



Figure 1: Card 10,000 was sent by Fay H who received a boxed set of Cards with dogs on them provided by our corporate Sponsor Anne Adams of [Queen of the Hounds](https://www.queenofthehounds.com.au/).



Faye has advised me that she and her neighbour Mal will be sending them back to us with warm words of support for Ukrainians on the Front lines.

> Postcards to the Front Stall in Sydney for the 2nd time

Luda P is a real star. This is the 2nd pop up Postcards to the Front stall she has set up for us in Sydney. The first was at the Baltic Markets together with the SLWSSA President, Loretta Grybauskas and we got 70 cards.

This one occurred on the 17th of March at a fair organised by the Sydney Lithuanian Scouts in Strathfield (Sydney suburb 12 kms from the CBD). 80 cards collected and already on their way to Ukraine.



> Increasing our supporter base

I have been trying to increase our supporter base through the media without much success, so I am trying something new.

I am dropping off flyers in my neighbourhood to try and get more people involved. I am only targeting people within walking distance (I don't want to get into it now, but I totalled the car so they have to be within walking distance).

I have (with the advice of a friend Gab) produced A5 flyers printed on both sides. I have started distributing them and next month I will tell you if it was worth the effort or not.

Hello Neighbour,



I am Peter, and I have been living in Newport for over 15 years at 3 Elgin Street. I am the Australian representative of a Ukrainian group called *Postcards to the Front*. You may have seen me walking my doggie, Charlie.

We are looking for people to join us in writing postcards, with messages of encouragement and support to the Defenders of Ukraine on the front lines.

We do not want any money, but a few minutes of your time to write postcards in English or Ukrainian.

We live in difficult times. Do you ever look at the news and think if only I could do something to help? Ukraine has been fighting against Putin for the last two years.

This is the reason I started *Postcards to the Front Australia* (14/3/2024). Within the first 12 months of operations, we have sent 10,000 cards to Ukraine.

I am inviting you to join us in this project to help maintain the morale of Ukrainian Defenders on the Front Lines.

Peter Ramadge

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ramadgep@gmail.com

3 Elgin Street, Newport. VIC 3015 (between North & Collingwood Roads)

Postcards to the Front Process



Postcards are dispatched in bulk to our contact in Ukraine, who organises them to be hand delivered to men and women on the Front Lines. If you want to send a single card or a few cards, it's up to you.

All you need to do is contact me by text or email, and let me know your contact details (name, address & email), plus the number of postcards you wish to write.

I will deliver an envelope with blank cards to your address.

When you have finished writing the postcards, let me know and I will pick them up. I then advise you when the postcards are heading off to Ukraine. You will also receive a copy of our Monthly newsletter, if interested.

It is as simple as that!

I repeat there is no cost involved at all for you, except your time.

We also have a website if you would like to find out more:

<https://www.postcardstothefront.com.au/>

Please consider this simple request.

> **Screening in Melbourne**

Please join us at this special screening of Oscar-winning film *20 Days In Mariupol* in support of the Defend Ukraine Appeal.



Date and Time: Thu 4th Apr 2024, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm AEDT

Location: **Cinema Nova**

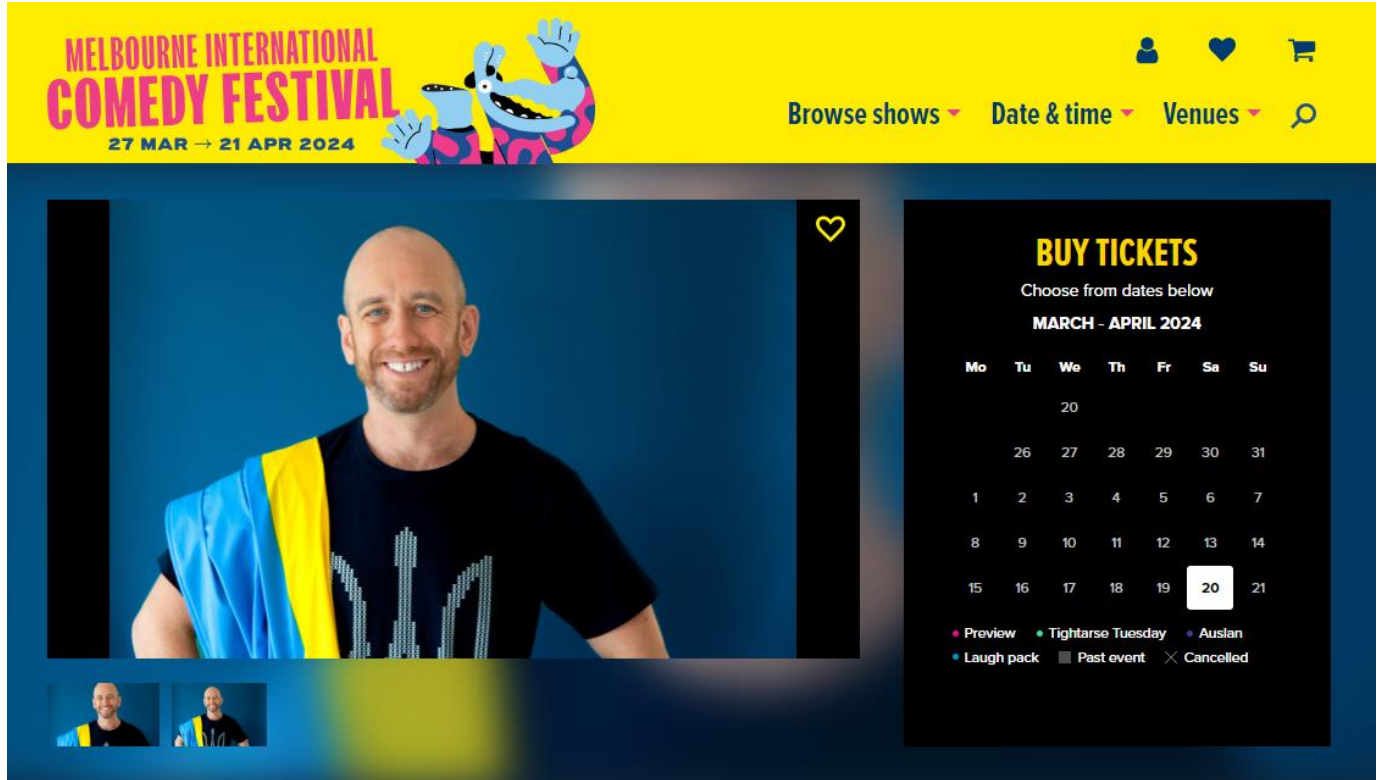
380 Lygon St, Carlton VIC 3053, Australia

Admission: \$33

URL: <https://events.humanitix.com/20-days-in-mariupol-fundraising-screening>

> Fundraiser for Ukraine in Melbourne

An evening of laughs to raise money for Ukraine Crisis Appeal. Hosted by Danny McGinlay (*The Front Bar, Fisk*) and featuring some of the best comedians in Australia.



Date and Time: Sat 20th Apr 2024, 4:45 pm - 5:45 pm AEDT

Location: **The Victoria Hotel**
Banquet Room, 215 Lt Collins St, Melbourne

Admission: \$35

URL: <https://www.comedyfestival.com.au/2024/shows/fundraiser-for-ukraine>

> Ukraine 2022-2024: *Diary of an Aid Worker* by Mark Neville



From the editor [Caurette](#):

‘When war escalated two years ago, on February 24, 2022, Mark Neville decided not only to stay in his adopted home of Kyiv, but also to set up a charity, Postcode Ukraine, with which he has been making deliveries of humanitarian aid to frontline towns for the same two years.’

‘Through more than 100 previously unpublished photographs made during these dangerous aid trips, Neville’s diary gives us a unique, unsettling yet stunningly beautiful insight into life in Ukraine. Exploring themes of commitment, home, loss, resilience, the power of children, women and motherhood, and our relation to the land, Neville’s new project highlights the importance of charity work and mental health support for a traumatised nation.’

‘Along with being a beautiful photo book and an essential testimony, this book is at once a call to action for the West, a meditation on trauma, a tool kit of vital information for the Ukrainian audience about where to access support, and a reconfiguration of the roles both of the photo book and the photographer.’¹

¹ ‘Please note in the last day or so Funding for this project was suspended by Kickstarter. We are endeavouring to find out what the story is. We will keep you in the loop if and when we find out.’ – Caurette.

Canada Branch News and Updates

By Helen

Helen and Jean-Michel are on vacation, but we don't forget our Ukrainian friends.

Of course, some postcards for Defenders from various stops. As well as cards from the Canada branch collection.

Stay tuned for our April updates.

Plus, in April, we will feature an interview with a Canadian lad who has done one tour on the front lines. He will soon enter training for his second tour.



Also, we will include an article that features interviews with several Ukrainian civilians who tell us about the importance of messages of support and hope both to Defenders and to the rest of Ukraine.

Your cards make a difference every day!

Please let us know if you need postcards. We can send some to you to write to Defenders. FREE.

Have a happy and blossomy spring!
Reporting from the middle of the Aegean Sea.



Figure 2: Writing postcards for Ukraine's Defenders during our travel.



Figure 3: We see support for Ukraine in Rome.

UK Branch News and Updates

By Helen

Sometimes, it's postcards to Defenders. This week, Plathy and friends at UK Branch prepared another shipment of children's items, such as stuffies, and even a Vyshyvanka, to travel with the [Yorkshire Aid Convoy](#) to Ukraine. Bon Voyage!



**Safe trip to the Yorkshire Aid Convoy.
They are bringing your donations to Ukraine.**

