

Mint Issue



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT

May 2003 Number 52



Dear Collector

I would like to thank all the collectors who have contacted me and wished me well in my new position as head of the Mint.

In this edition of Mint Issue you'll find a number of interesting numismatic items for collectors to consider. I would particularly like to introduce what could well be the most important numismatic release this year.

We are announcing the release of a limited edition Proof Year Set of our six 2003 dated coins, all minted in fine (99.9%) silver. Proof coins represent the pinnacle of a Mintmaster's art. And, for the first time, the Mint is presenting our six current circulating coins in fine silver. This exciting project successfully addresses the requests, made by many of our collectors over a number of years, for our circulating coins to be produced in a precious metal proof set.

Only 6500 Year Sets will be produced for world-wide distribution and, if the set meets with the approval of our collectors, we see it becoming an annual issue. Further details of this beautiful set are also on the following page.

To Celebrate Australia's historic hostin of the Rugby World Cup 2003, the Royal Australian Mint is issuing a limited edition Silver Proof Coin. The focal point of the design is the Webb Ellis Cup, selectively gold plated to represent this prestigious trophy. We have included a seperate brochure in the edition of Mint Issue to highlight our involvement with this event and assist collectors in placing their orders.



Vivienne Thom
Controller
Royal Australian Mint.



Fine Silver Proof Set

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST DECIMAL FINE SILVER YEAR SET

It's our eagerly anticipated Proof Year Set in fine silver! Here, classic craftsmanship creates the perfect marriage of beauty and value in this extremely limited edition of only 6500 Proof Year Sets.

The coins are our standard designs, so well loved by Australians: the 5c echidna, the 10c lyrebird, the \$2 Aboriginal elder, together with the three commemorative coins for 2003, the 20c, 50c and \$1 Volunteer designs. The \$1 coin will have a struck design and will not be pad-printed.

As is only appropriate for such a prestigious proof collection, the coins are individually encapsulated and presented in a Western Australian Jarrah case. To further enhance the quality of this significant issue, the cases have been fashioned in the finest traditions of WA wood craftsmen. As a delicate finishing touch, the lid of the wooden case is elegantly embossed with Australia's Coat of Arms.

The proof dies for this limited edition have been especially prepared, each die demanding about four hours of a die-polisher's concentrated attention, so that it imparts a perfect finish to the coin when struck.

As a true collector's edition, this set will become an important addition to any coin collection. Equally, however, it will also appeal to discerning individuals, who appreciate beautiful objects and works of art.

Nominal Specifications

Metal	Fine Silver (99.9%)					
Denomination	5c	10c	20c	50c	\$1	\$2
Mass (g)	2.83	5.65	11.30	15.55	9.00	6.60
Diameter (mm)	19.41	23.60	28.52	31.51	25.00	20.50
Finish	Proof					
Mintage	6500					

Price (incl GST):
\$185.00



Vietnam Veterans Coin

Honouring our Vietnam Veterans

We are proud to have produced this coin to honour all the service personnel, who served in Vietnam. And whilst it celebrates the efforts of our returned troops, this coin also pays tribute to those 519, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of this great country.

The style of the \$1 aluminium bronze coin is intended to be contemporary, simple and clean. Its design mirrors and harks back to the dramatic architectural elements of the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial in Canberra's Anzac Parade; a central point of pilgrimage for so many of our Veterans from all over Australia. The memorial's elevated central ring, which contains the names of those Australians who lost their lives while serving in Vietnam, features strongly in the coin design.

In addition, the Mint commissioned a military historian from the Australian War Memorial to write an overview of the conflict which features on the card. The presentation card and coin slips into a specially designed envelope.

Nominal Specifications

Denomination	\$1
Metal	Aluminium Bronze
Mass	9.00 grams
Diameter	25.00 mm
Finish	Uncirculated
Designer	Vladimir Gottwald

Price (incl GST): \$7.50

Volunteers' Six Coin Sets

Our Year Sets salute our Volunteers

Both the Six Coin Proof Year Set, and Uncirculated Set, house three coins specially produced for 2003 to highlight the work carried out by Australia's volunteers. The 50c and \$1 coins, together with the special 20c coin all incorporate designs, which honour our volunteers. The \$1 coin in the Proof Set is pad-printed, while in the Uncirculated Set it is struck.

The 50c design is made up of an intricate collection of vignettes featuring the many volunteer activities, in which Australians are actively engaged. The special 20c coin has a 'group portrait' of Australians showing volunteers hail from all walks of life.

Nominal Specifications

Alloy	Cupro Nickel		Al/Bronze			
Denomination	5c	10c	20c	50c	\$1	\$2
Mass (g)	2.83	5.65	11.30	15.55	9.00	6.60
Diameter (mm)	19.41	23.60	28.52	31.51	25.00	20.50

Realise Your Dream

To further celebrate the release of these Proof and Uncirculated Years Sets, the Royal Australian Mint is proud to announce a competition open to anyone, over the age of 18, who purchases either a Proof or Uncirculated Year Set through Mint Issue.

The prize really is a coin collector's dream come true. It's an all expenses paid trip for two to Canberra, including return flights and two nights accommodation. In Canberra, the winner and guest will be taken on a conducted tour of the Royal Australian Mint for a first hand view of what goes on behind the scenes to bring you new issues and collections. For further details please see page 14.



Price (incl GST):

Proof - \$73.76

Uncirculated - \$22.70



Coronation 50th Anniversary

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Coronation

The two coins issued this year to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Queen's Coronation both appear in proof format. And as befits such a significant issue, these coins have both been approved by Buckingham Palace.

The highly symbolic gold coin, with images of Australian wattle, appearing both around the coin itself and also in the Queen's tiara, portrays the Queen as a determined, young woman with the crown over her cipher, 'EII R' – indicating her assumption to the throne. This gold coin is, however, only available presented in a set together with the silver proof coin. The two coin set is limited to a world-wide mintage of 2003. To complement the two coins in the set case, a booklet both relates details of the Coronation, and also contains your signed Certificate of Authenticity.

The silver coin has been inspired by a more modern style. The design divides across three panels, which mimic a door opening onto the future of the Queen's reign. The Federation Star and wattle again highlight the Australian aspect of this reign, whilst the crown and cipher, which represent the Coronation, appear in the centre panel. The number '50' denotes both the denomination '50 cents' and the 50th anniversary.

This single coin is available in a limited edition of only 17,500 coins, and this number includes the 2003 silver coins reserved for the gold and silver coin set.

The two coin set is opulently housed in a plush red presentation case with a gold crown on the lid of the case. The silver coin comes in a presentation case with a similarly sumptuous finish, but with a silver crown on the presentation case's lid.

Price (incl GST):

Set - \$1295.00

Silver 50c - \$60.00

Nominal Specifications

Denomination	\$100	50c	PNC 50c
Metal	24 ct Gold (99.99%)	Fine Silver (99.9%)	Aluminium/ Bronze
Mass	One Troy Ounce	14.09 (g)	14.09 (g)
Diameter (mm)	34.00	31.51	31.51
Finish	Proof	Proof	Uncirculated
Mintage	2003 Sets	17 500	
Designer	Peter Soobik		



Philatelic and Numismatic Cover

50th Anniversary Coronation Philatelic and Numismatic cover

The Mint and Australia Post have collaborated to offer our collectors a superb new coin and stamp issue. The Mint's efforts have produced a particularly memorable coin for this issue. Together with the 50c Coronation design, approved by Buckingham Palace, we have used a gold coloured aluminium bronze blank for this coin, to celebrate this Golden Jubilee issue. This 'gold' 50c piece will only be available to collectors in this coin and stamp issue.

To ensure that you, our collectors, receive the opportunity to obtain this first day cover, the Mint has taken the initiative of sourcing a limited number from Australia Post to offer directly and exclusively to our Mint Issue readers. The stamp and coin issue will of course also be available through Australia Post and selected coin dealers.

Numismatically interesting in its own right, this uncirculated coin is the only Australian 50c coin ever to be offered by the Mint in aluminium bronze. This is of course a special coin for a very special occasion.

The date of release of the first day cover is 2 June 2003.

**Price (incl GST):
- \$11.95**

Special Offer – Companion Set Presentation Case

This special offer is intended for our collectors, who purchased the Accession set direct from Mint Issue and the Coronation set, again direct from Mint Issue this year. For you to better display all the four coins from the sets, we will automatically include in your order, absolutely free of charge, this beautiful Jarrah Presentation Case. Customers, who purchase both the Accession and Coronation sets through this Mint Issue, will also receive this complementary Presentation Case.

Please note that the special periodic payment plan for this product has now closed.



World Heritage Medallions

This is a stunning work of art. The collection consists of seven pure silver medallions, which together feature Australia's 14 World Heritage Areas. It has been created by the Mint's designer and engraver, Vladimir Gottwald, and struck on 50 mm silver blanks.

Special attention has been paid to 'antique' the medallions, to give a rich patina to their finish, and so highlight these outstanding designs.

The medallions are only available as a complete set with a limited mintage of only 500 sets. They are beautifully presented in a burgundy display case, finished with a rich wood trim. Collectors will also receive a complementary copy of the Department of the Environment's 66 page, breath-taking, full-colour book, featuring all of Australia's World Heritage Sites. This collection, just like the World Heritage Areas, is certain to be marveled at and treasured by future generations.

Two thirds now sold

Price (incl GST):
\$880.00 per set

Nominal Specifications

Mass	72.00 grams - Per Medallion
Diameter	50.00 mm
Metal	Fine Silver (99.9%)
Mintage	500 - Sets Worldwide
Finish	Antique
Designer	Vladimir Gottwald

Volunteer's Lapel Badge

Based on the Mint's design of the \$1 Volunteer coin, we have produced a lapel badge in 24 ct gold-plated sterling silver. It's an ideal gift for your friends and family, or simply for you to keep and enjoy.



Price (incl GST): **\$14.95**

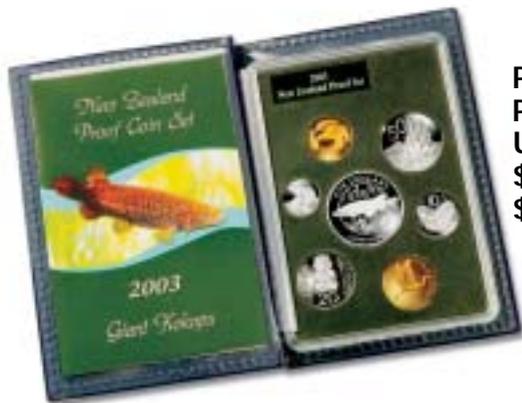
2003 New Zealand Coins

The Royal Australian Mint has minted the New Zealand 2003 Proof and Brilliant Uncirculated Year Sets as well as their 'signature' 2003 Fine Silver \$5 proof selected gold plated coins and \$5 BU coins. The sets and individual coins are in attractive packaging with considerable information about the Giant Kokopu, or Maori trout, the fish highlighted on the \$5 coins. The Mint has obtained a limited number of these sets and coins for our Mint Issue collectors.

The Proof Set contains the six base metal circulating coins together with the collector \$5 Fine Silver Proof 'feature' coin. The design on this \$5 coin is of the Giant Kokopu.

The seven coin, Brilliant Uncirculated Set, has the same coins as the Proof set but in Brilliant Uncirculated finish. The set again features the \$5 coin but in cupro nickel.

\$5 Fine Silver Proof coin with selected gold plating features the Maori trout, this time with the trout's image in selected gold plating. The coin is packed in a presentation case with a numbered certificate of authenticity and a mintage of only 6000. The \$5 BU coin, with the same image this time struck (not gold plated) is produced in cupro nickel and comes in a presentation case with a certificate. The mintage is 8000.



Prices (incl GST):

Proof Set	- \$120.00
Uncirculated Set	- \$45.00
\$5 Selective plated	- \$89.00
\$5 Uncirculated	- \$29.00



50th Anniversary Korean War

\$1 Fine Silver Proof coin

We have created this beautiful \$1 silver coin to honour and remember all those brave Australians, who served in the Korean War. Appropriately, this coin's design is deeply symbolic and echoes some of the architectural aspects of the Australian National Korean War Memorial in Canberra.

On each side of the coin, the Dove of Peace and the national floral emblems of South Korea and Australia are set against a panel of vertical lines. These lines give echo to the stainless steel poles standing outside the memorial, which represent the Australians, who died in the war. It's perhaps worth noting that the coin is limited to a mintage of 15,000.

\$1 Mintmark coins

We're happy to report that the popularity of the Mint's Mintmark collection continues to grow amongst serious and new collectors alike. You may be pleased to know that the 2003 Mintmarks are now available.

The aluminium bronze coin design commemorates the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. The coin is mounted in the familiar and well-received three-panel card giving a brief history of this conflict. The card features a picture of the Australian National Korean War Memorial.



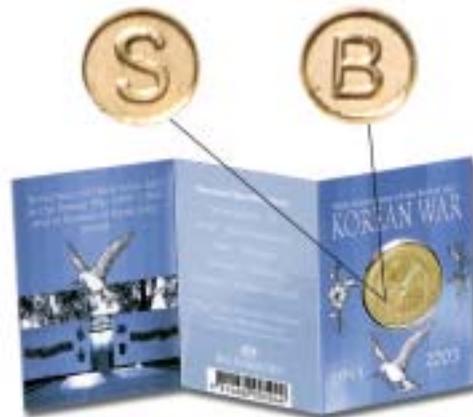
Nominal Specifications

Finish	Proof	Uncirculated
Denomination	\$1	\$1
Metal	Fine Silver (99.9%)	Aluminium Bronze
Mass (g)	11.66	9.00
Diameter (mm)	25.00	25.00
Mintage	15,000	Unlimited
Designer	Vladimir Gottwald	

Price (incl GST):

Proof - \$34.20

Mintmark - \$2.50



\$1 Silver Kangaroo Coins



Nominal Specifications

Denomination	\$1
Metal	Fine Silver (99.9%)
Mass	One Troy Ounce
Diameter	40.00 mm
Finish	Proof / Frosted Uncirculated
Designer	Ray Thomas

This year, once more, the Mint has specially commissioned a design for the ever-popular \$1 silver proof and frosted uncirculated kangaroo, in this case from Aboriginal designer Ray Thomas of Victoria. This makes our 2003 dated coins the third in an impressive series of Aboriginal designs, of this Australian bush icon. The coins are available in proof in a presentation case, or in a card in frosted uncirculated finish. They are both a fitting continuation of the series and, at the same time, a wonderful modern expression of Aboriginal art. These coins would make a beautiful and classic gift for friends and family within Australia or overseas.

SOLD OUT - Australia's first selectively gold plated coin, the gold plated silver \$1 Kangaroo, has sold out from the Mint. The mintage was 10,000 coins.

Price (incl GST):
Proof - \$48.00
Fruunc - \$21.67



Wedding Coin Collection

Celebrate the joy of the day and the happy couple's bright future together with this wonderful 2003 dated Wedding Coin Collection.

The coins are struck to Gem Uncirculated quality and set in a cream coloured presentation case. They come complete with a gift card and an elegant outer packaging featuring two magnificent brogias in a courtship dance. This set is a truly memorable gift for newly weds. The Wedding Coin Collection is only available in Gem Uncirculated finish and includes an inscription plate for your personal message.

Nominal Specifications: See Six Coin Sets.

Price (incl GST) - **\$69.50**



Masterpieces in Silver

Masterpieces in Silver – Voyages into History.

The four proof coins in this set concentrate on four maritime vessels, which played a pivotal role in the early European discovery of Australia. These four intricately designed proof coins, in their elegant and classically designed presentation case, would certainly make an eye-catching addition to any serious collection. And for a clearer understanding of the incredible journeys made by these magnificent ships, the coins come complete with a detailed booklet relating the history of each vessel. As part of the Mint's annual Masterpieces in Silver series, this set opens up a major part of our history for rediscovery.

Issue closing soon!

Price (incl GST): \$165.00

Nominal Specifications

Denomination	\$5
Metal	Fine Silver (99.9%)
Mass	36.31 (grams)
Diameter	38.74 (mm)
Finish	Proof
Mintage	10 000 sets
Designer	Vladimir Gottwald

Floral Emblems of Australia

Sturt's Desert Rose – **this is the last opportunity** for collectors to buy these coins direct from the Mint.

The issue of the Proof \$150 and \$100 Northern Territory 'Floral Emblem' gold coins from the Mint will shortly cease, so please don't miss out.

The Northern Territory's floral emblem named after Captain Charles Sturt is the penultimate issue in this nine-year issue. The proof \$150 coin comes in an extremely elegant Tasmanian Blackwood presentation case, while the \$100 proof version is presented in a burgundy case.

Nominal Specifications

Denomination	\$150	\$100
Metal	24 ct Gold	24 ct Gold
Mass	½ Troy Ounce	1/3 Troy Ounce
Diameter	30.00 mm	25.00 mm
Finish	Proof	Proof
Mintage	1 500	2 500
Designer	Horst Hahne	

Prices (incl GST):

\$150 Proof - \$580.85

\$100 Proof - \$350.34

Lapel Badge - \$14.95

Baby Coin Sets

To welcome the new arrival in the family, the Mint's ever-popular proof and uncirculated Baby Coin Sets now feature the Volunteers coins. The coins are housed in a special presentation case with a card, which makes space for the baby's photo and immediate family details. These sets are an heirloom in the making and a wonderful gift for the new parents.

Nominal Specifications: See Six Coin Sets



Prices (incl GST):

Proof - \$89.50

Uncirculated - \$29.33



New GST Arrangements

Possible new arrangements with GST applying to precious metal coins.

The Australian Taxation Office has published a draft ruling proposing that from a date yet to be determined the full 10% GST should be charged on modern issue silver and gold collector coins. GST will continue **not** to be charged on Bullion coins, where there is a close relationship between the precious metal content of the coin and the coin price.

If the ruling comes into effect, all the Mint's current offerings of precious metal coins, which previously only had GST charged on the packaging accompanying the coins, will have a full 10% GST charged on the retail price of coins. Prices quoted in this Mint Issue are therefore subject to change if the ATO advises the date that this ruling will come into force. If this ruling comes into effect it will also affect all dealers who sell modern issue Australian precious metal collector coins, not only the Mint.

Australian Banknotes

We continue to receive a great response to the numismatic products offered by the Mint. We were especially delighted with the response to the first time offering, in the February Mint Issue, of the first prefix (BA 02) and last prefix (EA 02) 2002 Queen \$5 notes and the last prefix (GL 02) 2002 \$10 note.

This Mint Issue offers the last prefix (PE 99) \$50 note for the first time. This note was printed in 1999 so it does not include the printed names of David Unaipon and Edith Cowan below the portraits. As mentioned in previous Mint Issues, printed names will be included on all notes (except \$5 notes) printed from 2002 onwards.

For new readers, the Mint is responsible for the distribution of first and last prefix numismatic banknotes for the Reserve Bank of Australia. These notes attract a small premium above face value and GST is payable. Standard uncirculated banknotes, intended to satisfy the public's demand for crisp new notes, are also available.

For details of the notes that are available to order, their prices and how to order them, please see the separate order form enclosed with this Mint Issue.

For general information about banknotes please visit the RBA's website www.rba.gov.au/currencynotes. If you have any specific or general questions about our banknotes that cannot be answered after visiting the RBA's website, you can speak directly to the RBA in Sydney on 1800 633 220 (Monday to Friday).

Off The Presses

Secrets of the Mint Competition

To celebrate the release of the 2003 Year Sets, Mint Issue is offering two lucky coin collectors exclusive access behind the scenes of the Royal Australian Mint.

Anyone over the age of 18 who purchases a 2003 Year Set (either in proof or uncirculated), direct from our mail order department is eligible to enter. The Competition will be governed by the laws of the Australian Capital Territory. Your entry will be deemed to be an offer to enter the competition which the Mint may, in its absolute discretion, accept or reject.

Simply fill in the entry form you will receive with the coins and tell us in 35 words or less:

Why I collect Royal Australian Mint coins...

The answer deemed the best by the panel of judges will win the entrant return economy flights for themselves and a friend from their nearest capital city, two nights accommodation, \$1000 spending money, and of course the chance to visit areas of the Mint not accessible to the general public.

The winners will be personally shown through each stage of the production process from conception to delivery and see how coins are designed and engraved, blanks are prepared, and the proof and circulating coins are minted. ***They will even have the opportunity to strike a proof coin themselves.***

So, for your unique opportunity to get closer to the minting process than ever before, make sure you order your 2003 Year Set directly from our mail order department and get your entry in soon.

Entries for the Secrets of the Mint Competition close on 8 October 2003 with full details of terms and conditions on the entry form despatched with the sets.

Making Money – The story of the Royal Australian Mint

This in-depth book about the Mint gives information on its history, some of Australia's icon coins and also information on how coins are made. It's widely regarded as a 'must have' information source for the serious and new collector and available direct from the Mint for only \$10.00 each.



Australian Olympic Coin Programme 2004

The Mint has had a long association with the Australian Olympic Committee and has traditionally issued coins to commemorate the Australian Team's participation at various overseas Olympic Games. We are pleased to announce this association will continue with an agreement between the AOC and the Mint, which will see Australia issuing a limited edition series of collector coins early in 2004 for the Games to be held in Athens. Appropriately our national Mint will be issuing the only official Australian coins for this event.

Have You Moved?

As you might imagine, the production and distribution of Mint Issue is rather costly, so the Mint needs to ensure that copies don't go to waste. So, in the event that we notice someone on our mailing list has not bought coins direct from Mint Issue for some 15 months, we will then assume that the individual has changed address, or is no longer interested in receiving the publication. We will then stop sending Mint Issue to that address. So please do let us know if you change your address, so that we can update our records to ensure you receive your copy of Mint Issue.

Sydney Coin Show

The Controller attended the ANDA Coin Show in Sydney to meet collectors as well as some of the dealer community. The picture shows her at our stand during the Sydney Show.



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Out And About

The Controller also attended a number of meetings of the Mint Directors Conference, International Mint Marketing Development Council and met overseas coin dealers when she travelled to Basel, Switzerland in late January. The Controller with Mint Directors from Canada, US and France.

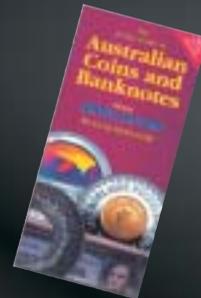


Brisbane Coin Show

The Mint will attend the ANDA Brisbane Coin Show between Friday 23 May and Sunday 25 May at the RNA Showgrounds, Gregory Terrace, Fortitude Valley. We look forward to seeing our Queensland collectors again.

Coin and Banknote 10th Edition

Australian Coins and Banknotes 10th edition pocketbook is now available from the Mint.
(\$19.95 + P&H)



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