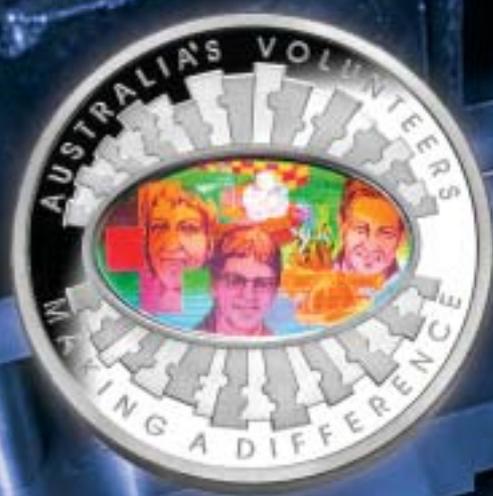


Mint Issue



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT

September 2003 Number 54



2003 FINALE COIN

Dear Collector

Dear Collector

In discussions with many of our collectors since I joined the Mint, I have had two points frequently made to me. Collectors would like to see the number of issues reduced, as well as the mintages. The Mint, some time ago, grouped our various coin issues into two broad categories. Firstly, those coins and sets that we think every Australian should be able to own if they want them; we call these our 'Icon' issues. The 'Icon' issues generally have no mintage restrictions. They are issues such as our proof and uncirculated Year Sets, Baby Sets and some others which we often make available to a wide range of retail outlets. In this way the coins are within the reach of most Australians. The second group of coins are the special numismatically oriented coin releases which have limited mintages and can be obtained from the Mint or coin dealers.

Our objective is to limit overall the number of coin issues and to limit the mintage of the numismatic issues. A combination of our limited mintages and exciting coins has resulted in many of the recent modern issues being in very high demand.

Having written about limiting the issues, the serious collector might wonder why we are issuing coins for the Rugby World Cup 2003 for example, or why we will be issuing coins celebrating our participation in the Athens Olympics.

One of the reasons is that we also see the need to widen the interest in coin collecting and what better way than using sport, the way into most Australians' hearts. The base metal rugby coins are deliberately being targeted at rugby enthusiasts and overseas visitors to these games who are probably not collectors. The pricing of the coins is such that they will also attract the younger rugby enthusiast. We don't expect all the buyers of these coins to become collectors, but if somewhere down the track a percentage do, then we are reinvigorating collecting as a hobby.

This Mint Issue brings the final coin in the well-received "Finale" series of hologram coins and the second in our commemorative numismatic series, this year being the Sydney Mint Pattern Sovereign - another interesting Australian numismatic issue.



Vivienne Thom
Controller
Royal Australian Mint

Finale Hologram Coin

The Final 'Finale'!

This spectacular \$5 silver proof coin marks the third and final release in the Mint's hologram "Finale" series. In 2003, the Mint celebrates 'Australia's Volunteers – Making a Difference', and as such it is fitting that this year's "Finale" coin should reflect the service of Australia's Volunteers and their commitment to the community.

The hologram brings to life the faces of three ordinary Australians, symbolising that anyone can contribute to our community as a volunteer. As the coin is turned or tilted, an array of images surrounds the three faces – images signifying the variety of duties that volunteers carry out; from aged care and looking after our disadvantaged youth, to fighting bushfires and conserving our environment for the benefit of future generations. Surrounding the hologram image, designer Vladimir Gottwald has sculpted an intricate combination of interlocking patterns, representative of our community working together, an example being the work carried out by Australia's Volunteers.

It is rare to find a numismatic issue that combines the striking beauty of a silver proof coin, cutting-edge technology and a theme all Australians can relate to. Adding to the excitement that this issue is sure to generate, is the worldwide mintage limited to only 15,000 and the fact that it is the last coin of the 3-year 'Finale' hologram series. We expect a strong early demand from collectors eager to complete this definitive series.

Nominal Specifications

Denomination:	\$5
Diameter (mm):	38.74
Mass (grams):	36.31
Metal:	Fine Silver (99.9%)
Finish:	Proof
Mintage:	15,000

Designer (reverse): Vladimir Gottwald

Price (incl GST): **\$87.30**



SydneyMint

The 150th anniversary of the Pattern



Obverse

THE COIN:

The Sydney Mint Sovereign Pattern represents the second issue in our commemorative “\$10 Numismatic Series” from the Mint. This current issue follows last year’s successful and sought-after reproduction of the Adelaide Pound.

This stunning proof coin with its very Australian design has a face value of \$10, and features a gold-plated centre on a solid silver background. The gold-plated centre of the coin is a faithful reproduction of the Sydney Mint Sovereign Pattern, truly a landmark issue that marks a significant milestone in Australian numismatic history.

The Royal Australian Mint has in its National Coin Collection four uniface electrotypes of both sides of the original Sydney Sovereign and Half-Sovereign Patterns. These Sovereign Patterns were meticulously traced by the Mint’s specialised scanners, to provide a perfect reproduction of the 1853 Sydney Pattern. This reproduction forms the gold-plated centre of the coin. The silver ‘host’ section of the coin that forms the outside band is produced to the Mint’s exacting proof finish standards and brilliantly offsets the gold Pattern that lies within.

THE STORY:

The discovery of gold in the colony of New South Wales brought with it great economic benefits. One of these was to be the establishment of a branch of the Royal Mint in Sydney, the first branch of the Mint to be set up outside of Britain. In 1853, after the decision to open a new mint in Sydney was made, the Royal Mint in London produced a series of patterns to test designs that were to be used for minting in Sydney.

The designer of the Sydney Mint Pattern was James Wyon, who was a member of the famous Wyon dynasty of engravers. James was, in fact, a cousin of the much more distinguished and talented William Wyon, Second Engraver to the Royal Mint (1816 – 1828) and later Chief Engraver (1828 – 1851).



View of Lyon's Terrace Hyde Park Sydney, 1849.
Courtesy of the State Library of New South Wales

SovereignPattern

James' obverse design was an adaptation of William Wyon's 'Young Head' of Queen Victoria. The reverse design was markedly different to previous Imperial sovereign designs. It was uniquely Australian, with the words 'Australia' and 'Sydney Mint' prominent on the design. The different obverse and reverse were a deliberate measure to differentiate the Sydney sovereign from Imperial sovereigns and therefore protect the integrity of the Imperial sovereigns.

From January 1825, James Wyon was employed by his cousin as a private assistant at the Royal Mint. His duties included the supervision of the striking of proof coins, then a private preserve of the mint engravers. Following the death of William in 1851, he was appointed to the permanent staff in the new position of Resident Engraver. Records of the Royal Mint contain, in October 1858, an acknowledgment of his work as Resident Engraver in reorganising the Die Department, improving the working life of dies and increasing the number of dies sunk. He is best known in this period however, for engraving the dies for the sovereigns and half-sovereigns to be struck at the new Sydney branch of the Royal Mint.

The Wyons were not renowned for the strength of their constitution and in 1860, James was placed in a mental hospital. As there was no sign of recovery, he was pensioned in April 1861 and died, still in asylum on 15 June 1868.

With only four sets of original patterns still in existence, this is your opportunity to own this commemorative piece of Australian numismatic history. The mintage is strictly limited to 10,000 coins worldwide. Such a low mintage, combined with the fascinating story behind this unique issue will make this beautiful coin a collector's delight.



Reverse



Nominal Specifications

Denomination	\$10
Mass (grams)	60.50
Metal: outer ring	Fine Silver (99.9%)
centre	Fine Silver (99.9%) 24 ct gold plated
Diameter (mm)	50.00
Finish	Proof
Mintage	10 000

Price (incl GST): **\$96.50**

Masterpieces in Silver

The Port Phillip Patterns

This year's Masterpieces in Silver – The Port Phillip Patterns, have been selling fast since their launch in July. Overwhelmingly positive feedback from our collectors indicates that these coins are of such interest, that many of our collectors had to buy them as soon as they saw them. The numismatic story behind this issue only serves to further illustrate the beauty and appeal of these Masterpieces. Struck in fine silver to a proof finish, this four coin set represents an excellent addition to any collection.

The mystery behind Australia's Port Phillip Kangaroo Patterns is a fascinating but little known numismatic story. Essentially a failed business venture, it represents one of the first attempts to establish a coin producing industry in Australia, and has left in its wake many enigmas. Where in Melbourne was the 'Kangaroo Office', the venture that produced these patterns, originally housed? How many patterns were really produced, a figure we still do not know today, and why were the instructions to drop the dies into the depths of Port Phillip Bay not carried out? The dies resurfaced in 1917, during stocktaking by the later owners of the 'Kangaroo Office' coining press, Thomas Stokes.

The little-known Australian numismatic story of the Port Phillip Patterns is a timely one to tell and publicise - perhaps some of the questions raised here can be answered as more people come to take an interest in this intriguing story.

Be sure to secure this popular and interesting issue from the Mint.

Reverses Shown

Nominal Specifications

Metal	Fine Silver (99.9%)			
Denomination	\$1	\$2	\$5	\$10
Diameter (mm)	28.52	32.50	38.74	38.74
Mass (grams)	13.36	18.22	36.31	36.31
Finish	Proof			
Mintage	10 000			
Engraver	Vladimir Gottwald			



Price (incl GST): **\$160.00**

FloralEmblems

Final release of this magnificent gold series

The final release in the Floral Emblems of Australia series features the Australian Capital Territory's Floral Emblem, the Royal Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia gloriosa*). The announcement of the selection of the ACT's Floral emblem was made on the 26 May 1982, so giving the ACT its own floral emblem. The Royal Bluebell is a small perennial herb and occurs mainly in sub-alpine areas in the ACT, New South Wales and Victoria. It flowers from spring into autumn (October to March) and has striking violet-blue flowers.

While it is a small plant that is not very noticeable, in flower it is nonetheless striking because of the bright colour of its flowers contrasting against a generally dry background.

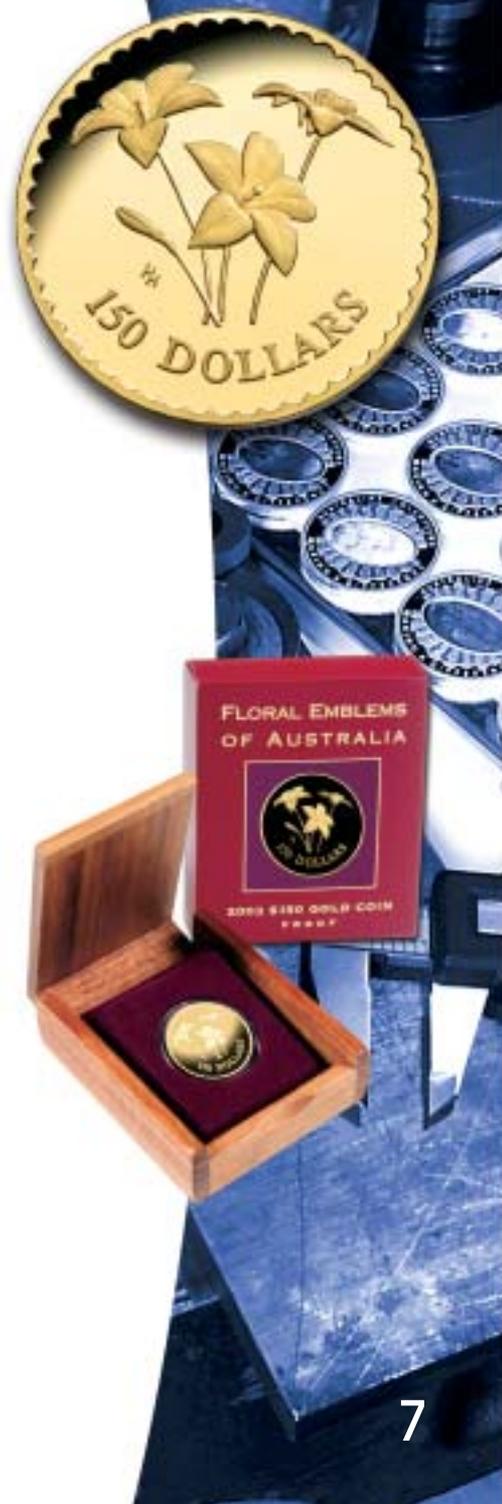
As usual there are three coins in this year's issue: the \$150 face value, half Troy ounce proof coin that comes in a Tasmanian Blackwood presentation case, the \$100 face value, one-third Troy ounce proof coin and the same size, uncirculated version, also with a face value of \$100. Both of the \$100 versions come housed in burgundy coloured presentation cases and all three are presented in tastefully designed outer boxes. The mintages are extremely small as shown below.



Prices (incl GST):	
\$150 Proof	- \$580.85
\$100 Proof	- \$350.34
\$100 Uncirculated	- \$285.63
Lapel Badge	- \$14.95

Nominal Specifications

Denomination	Mass	Metal	Mintage	Diameter	Finish
\$150	1/2 Troy Ounce	24 ct Gold	1500	30.00 (mm)	Proof
\$100	1/3 Troy Ounce	24 ct Gold	2500	25.00 (mm)	Proof
\$100	1/3 Troy Ounce	24 ct Gold	3000	25.00 (mm)	Uncirculated
Designer	Horst Hahne				



Rugby World Cup 2003

The game played in heaven – the coin made in Australia

The Rugby World Cup is coming to Australia! The world's biggest sporting event for 2003 is set to take Australia by storm. Secure a slice of Rugby history by purchasing our Rugby World Cup 2003 base metal uncirculated coin, beautifully presented in a themed 'display holder'. The special holder, a 'first' for the Mint, includes information about the Rugby World Cup as well as a picture of Telstra Stadium, where the finals will be contested. The unique holder design enables the coin to be easily displayed anywhere from a young rugby fan's bedroom to a corporate office.

Wallabies vs. Argentina kick-off the opening game on 10 October with the final being held on 22 November. Rugby is a sport that crosses state lines and Australians feel passionately about; we have every reason to, as our Wallabies have twice lifted the William Webb Ellis Cup as World Champions – once in 1991 and again in 1999.

The design of the coin conveys the fluid motion of a wily fly-half running in to kick a penalty goal, which may put his team in front. It is a universally recognisable image, which will provide a great memento for years to come. Whether a sports fanatic or a proud Australian looking to commemorate this great sporting event coming to our shores, this coin is an excellent and affordable gift for rugby followers both young and old.

Final offer from the Mint!

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

Nominal Specifications

Denomination	\$5
Metal	Al/Zn Bronze
Mass	20.00 grams
Diameter	38.74 mm
Finish	Uncirculated
Mintage	Unlimited

Vietnam Veterans' Coin

Honouring our Vietnam Veterans

Due to popularity, our Vietnam Veterans' coin is appearing in 'Mint Issue' for a third time. In remembrance of the service of our Vietnam veterans, the coin's modern, clean lines highlight the major architectural aspects of the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial in ANZAC Parade, Canberra - a point of pilgrimage for 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. The major image on the holder and outer sleeve is of the Memorial at night and these features also are highlighted on the coin.

Honouring the efforts of our returned troops, this coin also pays tribute to those 519 Australians who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of this great country.

The coin is housed in a presentation card containing a short history of the conflict, commissioned by the Mint from a military historian with the Australian War Memorial. The coin and presentation card slip into a specially designed protective envelope.

Price (incl GST): **\$7.50**



Nominal Specifications

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

Korean War Coins

50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War

The 'M' Mintmark is the fourth coin in this year's uncirculated aluminium-bronze Mintmark series, commemorating the Korean War. The Melbourne 'M' Mintmark joins 'C' – Canberra, 'S' – Sydney and 'B' – Brisbane Mintmark coins to make an excellent gift for Veterans in our families, as well as providing an affordable start for those first setting out on a hobby of coin collecting.

The simple yet elegant design commemorates the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. Handsomely mounted in a 3-panel presentation card, for ease of display, the presentation card also contains a brief history of this conflict as well as a picture of the Australian National Korean War Memorial.

Usually released in November, this year's release of the 'M' – Melbourne Mintmark Korean War coin in September coincides with the Mint's presence at the Royal Melbourne Agricultural Show between 18 – 28 September 2003. Please drop in to see us and strike your very own \$1 Mintmark coin (see 'Off the Presses' on page 16 for further details).

Price (incl GST): **\$2.50**

Nominal Specifications

Denomination	\$1
Metal	Aluminium Bronze
Mass (g)	9.00
Diameter (mm)	25.00
Finish	Uncirculated
Mintage	Unlimited
Designer	Vladimir Gottwald



Volunteers Six Coin Sets

Australia's Year Sets salute our Volunteers

As the Mint's most popular numismatic product, our Year Sets are available in either proof or uncirculated finish. In 2003, the Mint celebrates Australia's Volunteers. To commemorate this fitting tribute to those who sacrifice so much for our community, three of the coins within the Year Set are devoted to the theme of volunteers working in our community. These include the \$1 coin (pad printed in the proof set and struck in the uncirculated set), featuring a symbolic outline of Australia and the wording "Australia's Volunteers – Making a Difference".

The 50c design consists of an intricate collection of images, bringing together many of the activities in which Australia's Volunteers are actively engaged. The 20c coin features a 'group portrait' of Australians, illustrating that our volunteers hail from all walks of life.

Purchasing a Year Set from the Mint is an affordable entry point into the hobby of numismatics, or coin collecting. Year Sets are a great way to start collecting. They make ideal presents that last for generations to come and are a tangible reminder of the year 2003. Both proof and uncirculated finish Year Sets are attractively packaged, highlighting the theme of "Australia's Volunteers – Making a Difference".

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
Mintage	Unlimited					

Price (incl GST):
Proof - \$73.76
Uncirculated - \$22.70

'Secrets of the Mint' Competition – Entries close 8 October!

To further celebrate the issue of our Proof and Uncirculated Year 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 2003 Year Set through Mint Issue. The prize is truly a coin collector's dream come true. It's an all expenses paid trip for two to Canberra, including return flights from your nearest capital city and two nights accommodation. In Canberra, the winner and guest will be taken on a guided 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 competition details, please see the back of the order form.



Silver Kangaroo Coins

Issue closing soon!

This is your final opportunity to secure the last Aboriginal designed Silver Kangaroo coin, in this three year series of the Kangaroo \$1 silver proof and frosted uncirculated coins. Next year the Mint will commence production of new silver kangaroo designs.

This year's specially commissioned Aboriginal design \$1 Silver Kangaroo coins are bounding out of the Mint for the last time! Aboriginal designer Ray Thomas of Victoria has designed an impressive coin that makes it the third and final in a memorable series of Aboriginal designs, of this Australian bush icon. Each coin struck in one Troy ounce of fine silver is a miniature work of art. Each 'Silver Roo' is attractively presented in colourful packaging consistent with the Aboriginal design on the coin.

The unmistakably Australian theme of this coin makes it easily identifiable the world over. For this reason, it makes an ideal gift for overseas visitors, Australians travelling abroad and those of us who appreciate beautiful design and our uniquely Australian kangaroo. Ensure that you obtain this wonderful modern expression of Aboriginal art.

Hop to it!



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

Nominal Specifications

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

Baby Coin Sets

Do you have friends or family who are expecting a baby?

The Royal Australian Mint has made shopping for a baby present easy. Our Baby Coin Sets are available in both proof and uncirculated finish, and make a fantastic gift for the new arrival and their parents.

The proof set contains a fine silver medallion, which can be engraved with a personalised message to the baby and parents. The uncirculated set contains a base metal medallion for this purpose. These sets are an heirloom in the making and will provide a valuable reminder of the happy occasion for years to come.

Our 2003 Baby Sets continue the theme of "Australia's Volunteers – Making a Difference", with three specially themed coins: the \$1 coin (pad printed in the proof set and struck in the uncirculated set) features a symbolic outline of Australia and "Australia's Volunteers – Making a Difference". The 50c design consists of an intricate collection of images, bringing together many of the activities in which Australia's Volunteers are actively engaged. The 20c coin features a 'group portrait' of Australians, illustrating that our volunteers hail from all walks of life.

Our 2003 Baby Sets are a lasting and beautiful memento of a new life.

Nominal Specifications: See Six Coin Sets

Price (incl GST):

Proof - \$89.50

Uncirculated - \$29.33

New GST Arrangements

Collectors will see that with this Mint Issue, the full 10% GST is now payable on our entire range of precious metal collector coins. This complies with the new public ruling made by the Australian Taxation Office in June 2003.

The Mint will, for a time, absorb the increase due to 10% GST on **selected** coins and coin sets. These include Floral Emblems (ACT Bluebell) \$150 and \$100 face value proof gold coins (but not the \$100 face value uncirculated coin, which has therefore increased in price), the 2003 dated \$1 Silver Kangaroo (proof and frunc), the 2-coin Accession and Coronation sets and the single silver 50c proof fine silver coins. The Mint will also absorb the GST for a time on our Masterpieces in Silver – The Port Phillip Patterns.



Wedding Coin Collection

A truly memorable wedding gift

The Mint has solved the dilemma of finding a suitable wedding gift! Our 2003 Wedding Set is a lasting reminder of the happy day. The coins are struck to Gem Uncirculated finish (close to proof quality) and are housed in a cream coloured presentation case with red velvet lining. The set includes a gift card and elegant outer packaging, also included is a plaque, allowing you to personalise the gift by engraving a special message to the newlyweds.

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

Finish: Gem Uncirculated
Nominal Specifications: see Six Coin Sets

Coronation Coins

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Coronation

This stunning Two-Coin Proof Set celebrates the Golden Jubilee of the Queen's Coronation on 2 June 1953. Buckingham Palace has approved the designs of both coins. The Fine Silver 50c coin is also available individually.

Presented in a plush, red velvet display case, the \$100 face value gold coin portrays the Queen as a determined young woman with the crown over her cipher 'EIIR', indicating her assuming the role of Monarch. The silver coin features a contemporary design, dividing across three panels, which represent a door opening onto the future of the Queen's reign. The Federation Star and sprig of wattle highlight the bond between the Queen and Australia. The crown and cipher appear in the central panel, and the number '50' denotes both the denomination (50 cents) and the 50th Anniversary.

Nominal Specifications

Denomination	\$100	50c
Metal	24 ct Gold (99.99%)	Fine Silver (99.9%)
Mass	One Troy Ounce	18.24 (g)
Diameter (mm)	34.00	31.51
Finish	Proof	Proof
Mintage	2003 Sets	17 500
Designer	Peter Soobik	

Price (incl GST):
Set - \$1295.00
Silver 50c - \$60.00

Australian Banknotes

In this Mint Issue we thought that we would take the opportunity to provide banknote collectors with some interesting facts about Australian currency and production of polymer notes for other countries over the last year:

- As at end June 2003, the value of notes on issue in Australia was \$32,173 million made up of 759 million notes. 2002/03 is the first year for some time that growth in circulation has not matched growth in economic activity.
- Over the 2002/03 financial year, Note Printing Australia (NPA) printed 112 million Australian notes in \$5 and \$10 denominations. Consequently, first and last prefix 2003 \$5 and \$10 notes will be available at some stage. In fact, first prefix 2003 \$10 notes are already on sale.
- Over the same period, NPA also printed polymer notes for other countries such as Brunei, Papua New Guinea, Nepal, New Zealand, Romania, Samoa and a large Asian country yet to be announced.

We remind readers that the numismatic notes available are first or last prefix notes from general circulation print runs for all denominations printed in a year. These notes attract a small premium above face value and GST is payable. Standard uncirculated notes are also available and these are intended to satisfy the public's demand for crisp new notes where the serial number prefix is not critical. These are available at face value.

For details of the notes that are available to order, their prices, package and postage costs and how to order them, please see the separate enclosed order form.

For more 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).



OffThe Presses

- **Secrets of the Mint Competition – FINAL CALL!**

A reminder that to enter this fabulous competition, our customers must purchase a 2003 Year Set (either proof or uncirculated) – then complete and send in the entry form which will be sent out with your coins. Entries close on October 8, so be quick! Full details of the competition and prize are on the back of your order form.

- **Rugby World Cup visits the Mint**

The William Webb Ellis Cup, better known as the Rugby World Cup made its second visit to the Mint on the weekend of August 2nd and 3rd. People from Canberra and surrounding regions flocked to the Mint to see the ultimate prize in rugby. This magnificent trophy was displayed in the Mint's Roof Gallery amongst our current Rugby



World Cup 2003 exhibition, and was attended to at all times by its own personal security guard. Our Rugby World Cup 2003 commemorative \$5 uncirculated coin also proved very popular with visitors (you can find the details of the Rugby World Cup 2003 coin on page 8 of this publication). The picture shows the Controller of the Mint, Dr Vivienne Thom with the William Webb Ellis Cup.

- **Mint Scheduled releases**

November – the first of the 2004 dated issues will be released

- **The Mint visits the Royal Melbourne Agricultural Show**

The Mint will attend the ROYAL MELBOURNE AGRICULTURAL SHOW between 18th and 28th September and will be in a pavilion on Lennon Avenue. As a result we will not be at the Melbourne Coin Show between Friday 10th and Sunday 12th October. The length of time we are spending at the Agricultural Show will, we hope, give you adequate time to visit us on a day convenient to yourself and your family. We look forward to meeting many Victorians who might only have dabbled in coin collecting and many who may never have thought about coins, except as something to spend. The Mintmark Press will be at the show so our visitors can personally obtain their 'M' mintmark coins.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT

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