

Mint Issue



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT

November 2003 Number 55

Australia's Coins



COME ALIVE
2004 SIX COIN SETS

Dear Collector

How quickly this year seems to have gone by. This issue offers you the first release of the 2004 Year Sets, and special ones at that. We return to the ever-popular traditional designs of our decimal coins but the set becomes the first Year Set to contain a holographic coin. More details on the following pages!

We receive many letters complimenting the Mint on the coin designs, themes and quality of the coins and packaging and we thank you for these. Particularly gratifying are the comments about how much Australia's coins are loved by our collectors. I cannot think of any other manufactured item that engenders this level of interest, enthusiasm and dedication. It's a great pleasure and honour, to be involved in the design and production of our much-loved coins.

This year, as part of a competition we asked our collectors why they collected Australian coins and the winner is announced in this Mint Issue. We look forward to welcoming the lucky winner to the Mint in the not too distant future. While we go about our job of producing coins for the nation to use in everyday

commerce, it's a great feeling to know that what we do creates such interest and passion. It makes our day so much more rewarding.

In addition to the winning entry, some of the many reasons for collecting, given by other competition entrants, are shown on pages 13 & 14. They all show a love of the miniature pieces of art produced by the Mint as meaningful and something to give as gifts or hand down to the coming generations, while at the same time providing present day collectors with an intriguing hobby. How many can engage in a hobby that links the past, the present and the future?

With 2003 almost behind us and 2004 about to dawn, all of us at the Mint send you and your families our best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Vivienne Thom
Controller
Royal Australian Mint



2004 Proof Year Set

Australia & the World's first proof Year Set featuring a hologram \$1 coin

Popular demand sees the return of the instantly recognisable and well-loved original designs of our circulating decimal currency to our 2004 Year Sets. The last time these six designs featured together in a Year Set was in 1990, and they've 'come alive' again in 2004!

Every Australian interacts with these coins on a daily basis. We value our coins not only for what they represent in monetary value, but also what they symbolise - our people, culture and fauna. It is also rare to find another country in the world whose coins tell such an interesting story and bear such a close relationship to its people, magnificence and natural beauty.

The highlight of this proof set is the \$1 proof coin with the familiar five kangaroos, featured in holographic format. The Mint has produced the world's first Proof Year Set featuring a hologram \$1 coin. The five kangaroos on the \$1 coin appear as multi-coloured, iridescent holograms, conveying the impression of dazzling colour and movement. This stunning coin truly comes alive!

The \$1 hologram coin has been made possible by a new manufacturing method to produce a holographic effect on a coin, developed by the CSIRO in conjunction with the Mint. This method, called Replica Micro Moulding, uses a high precision

elastomer stamp as a means for transferring a complex micro-pattern (the holographic image) onto the surface of the coin. A finely focused electron beam forms a pattern of fine grooves (which is the image that will appear on the reverse of the coin) on a specially prepared elastomer stamp. After striking the coin with the obverse image (effigy of the Queen) in the normal way in a coining press, the coin then goes through a second process where each coin has a resin application and is struck using the elastomer stamp. The fine pattern of grooves applied to the surface of the coin has been specifically designed to give an iridescent image with distinct

colours and featuring a movement of the image with tilting of the coin - a very complicated process that produces a stunning result!

The other five coins: the \$2 pays tribute to Australia's oldest culture and one of the oldest in the world, depicting an Aboriginal elder under a southern sky. The 50c represents all Australians with the proud and distinctive Australian Coat of Arms. The 20c coin features our unique platypus gliding under the shimmering surface of a mountain creek, the 10c coin is dominated by the spectacular plumage of a lyrebird and of course the 5c coin - starring the adorable echidna!

All the coins in the 2004 Proof Year Set are struck to the Mint's exacting proof finish standards and are packaged in durable and attractive display folders. A Proof Year Set from the Royal Australian Mint will provide a glittering testament to the beauty of Australia's coins for generations to come.

Price (inc GST): \$80.00

Nominal Specifications

Metal	Cupro Nickel				Aluminium Bronze	
	5c	10c	20c	50c	\$1	\$2
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

coins shown
to scale



2004 Olympic Coins

The Royal Australian Mint will be releasing in early 2004 Australia's official Olympic Coins, celebrating our participation in the Athens Games in August 2004. The Mint has a tradition of issuing Australia's

official Olympic releases; from the 1993 two-coin sterling silver & single gold coin release, through to the base metal & silver releases for Sydney 2000.

The limited mintage three-coin issue for Athens 2004 is planned to contain some interesting 'firsts' for international Olympic coins.

New Zealand Proof & Uncirculated Coins

The new 2004 New Zealand Proof & Uncirculated seven coin sets feature a \$5 coin as well as the other six circulating New Zealand coins. The \$5 features a beautiful depiction of the world's rarest seabird, The Chatham Island Taiko. This rare, nocturnal seabird can only be found on the Chatham Islands (800 km east of New Zealand) and the entire population

is thought to number only 120 individuals. The Chatham Island Taiko was believed to be extinct until it was dramatically re-discovered in 1978 and efforts are being made to bring it back from the brink of extinction.

Price (inc GST):

\$5 Proof Coin - \$80.00

Proof Set - \$120.00

\$5 Uncirculated Coin - \$25.00

Uncirculated Set - \$45.00

Nominal Specifications

Metal	Cupro Nickel				Aluminium Bronze		Fine Silver (proof) Cupro Nickel (unc)
Denomination	5c	10c	20c	50c	\$1	\$2	\$5
Mass (g)	2.83	5.66	11.31	13.61	8.00	10.00	28.28
Diameter (mm)	19.43	23.62	28.58	31.75	23.00	26.50	38.74



Korean War \$1 Mintmark Coins

Canberra 'C' Mintmark offered for the final time in Mint Issue

The Mint is proud to honour our Korean War veterans, on the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Korean War. To this end we have produced a coin that makes a perfect gift for the veterans in our families. These coins are also an inexpensive way to start a coin collection.

The Korean War coins are an interesting numismatic issue, with four versions of the Mintmark coin available for purchase. The different versions are identified by the 'Mintmark' – an imprint struck on the coin to identify where it was released. The Mint's attendance at the recent Melbourne

Agricultural Show saw the release of the 'M' - Melbourne Mintmark coin. It joins the 'C' – Canberra, 'S' – Sydney and 'B' – Brisbane Mintmarks. Each coin is handsomely mounted in a 3-panel presentation card, it also contains a short history of the Korean conflict and a picture of the Australian National Korean War Memorial in Canberra.

Nominal Specifications

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



Price (inc GST): \$2.50

Vietnam Veterans' Coin

'For Service – Australia's Vietnam Forces'

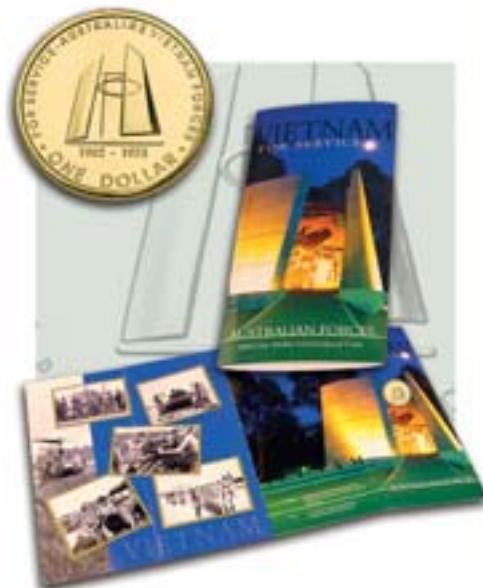
The above dedication is prominently struck on our Vietnam Veterans' coin, crowning a beautifully pure depiction of the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial in Canberra. The elegant simplicity of the design is complemented by the pride this coin generates for the sacrifice made by those Australians who served in Vietnam.

One of the factors in this coin's popularity has been a presentation card featuring a haunting photograph of the magnificent Australian Vietnam Forces

National Memorial at night. The coin and presentation card slips into a specially designed protective envelope and includes a short history of the conflict especially prepared by a historian from the Australian War Memorial.

Nominal Specifications

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



Price (inc GST): \$7.50

2003 Masterpieces in Silver

Port Phillip Patterns

Mysterious Masterpieces!

We have been overwhelmed by our Collectors' response to the latest issue in the Masterpieces in Silver series. From the feedback we have received, Collectors have been very generous in their praise of the theme, design, craftsmanship and packaging of this elegant numismatic set. The four stunning fine silver proof coins are set off to perfection by the plush black presentation case.

The comprehensive information booklet that is included with each set illustrates the history behind the Port Phillip Patterns, and raises some interesting

questions as to the failure of the operation and the subsequent closure of the 'Kangaroo Office' where the patterns were produced.

A very limited mintage of 10,000 ensures this will be a sought-after issue, and it's selling fast.

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 (inc GST): \$160.00

Floral Emblems Gold Series

Australian Capital Territory's Royal Bluebell

The final release in this magnificent 9-year gold series

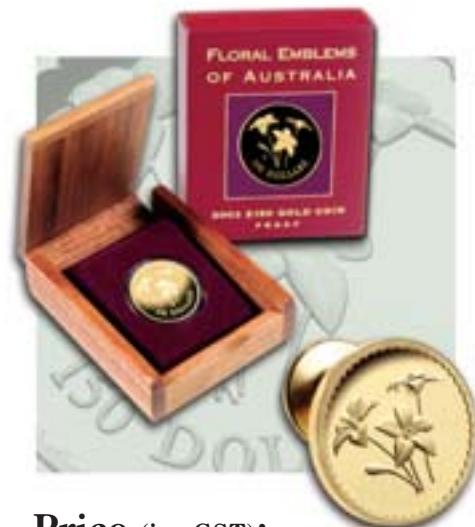
The final release of our 9-year gold series features the Australian Capital Territory's Floral Emblem, the Royal Bluebell. While it is a small plant that is not very noticeable, in flower it is nonetheless striking because of the bright colour of its petals contrasting against a generally dry background.

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 these latter two 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.

Nominal Specifications

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



Price (inc GST):

\$150 Proof - \$580.85

\$100 Proof - \$350.34

\$100 Uncirculated - \$285.63

Lapel Badge - \$14.95

2003 Christmas Medallion

Capturing the spirit of Christmas

Christmas is a time for family and friends, a time for sharing and happiness. Good food fills the table and merriment is in the air – a season of joy and goodwill for all. This year, the Mint has released the third in its series of festive Christmas Medallions. With a strictly limited mintage of only 2003 pieces, it makes a beautiful gift or decoration for the Christmas tree. Struck in copper and plated in 24ct gold, this year's medallion features a Christmas Angel ringing in the festive season and a sled brimming with presents. A laughing kookaburra lends a distinctly Australian flavour to this delightful vignette. The reverse side shows an intricate cluster of Christmas

stars, emblazoned with the message "Season's Greetings".

The Medallion is fitted into a gold-plated pewter bezel with an eyelet, enabling it to be hung as a decoration, or to adorn a Christmas tree. It comes presented in a special Christmas Greetings card – the perfect 'little extra' Christmas gift for those whom you treasure.

Nominal Specifications

Metal	Copper (24 ct gold plated)
Diameter	40.00 mm
Mass	29.60 grams
Finish	Bright
Mintage	2003
Designer	Vladimir Gottwald



Price (inc GST): \$26.00

Rugby World Cup 2003 \$5 Uncirculated Coin

Back by popular demand - issue closing soon

Excitement is sweeping the country as the Rugby World Cup 2003 nears its conclusion. This will be the final opportunity for our collectors to purchase the magnificent Rugby World Cup \$5 Uncirculated coin directly from the Mint.

This coin has proved very popular with collectors and rugby fans alike – it will provide a lasting testament to the biggest sporting event of 2003. An

affordable memento of Rugby World Cup 2003, or perhaps a starting point for a young coin collector – this uncirculated \$5 coin captures the imagination and the spirit of rugby in a uniquely presented package.

Nominal Specifications

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



Price (inc GST): \$14.95

2004 Baby Coin Sets

Featuring beautiful new presentation packaging artwork

For the 2004 sets, the Mint has commissioned Melbourne artist and illustrator Roland Harvey to create the imagery on the presentation packaging. Renowned for watercolours in small scale and high detail, Roland has painted scenes featuring the animals on our coins applying his unique sense of humour and characterisation which will delight time and again as you discover the detail in each presentation. The proof and uncirculated sets both feature different artwork designs on the packaging.

But the real stars of each set are 'Australia's Coins', featuring the six traditional designs first used on our decimal coinage. The Proof Set includes the \$1 hologram coin. Both Baby Sets feature a new design of a medallion (fine silver in the Proof Set and base metal in the Uncirculated). This medallion allows each set to be personalised for the new arrival or their family. An heirloom in the making and a precious gift for the new parents.

Limited numbers of 2003 'Australia's Volunteers', Baby Proof and Uncirculated Sets are still available from the Mint.



Price (inc GST):

Proof - \$95.00

Uncirculated - \$30.50

Nominal Specifications: See Proof Year Sets



2004 Wedding Coin Collection - Gem Uncirculated

The perfect wedding gift!

The Mint is pleased to announce that the 2004 Wedding Coin Collection is now available. As our only coin set featuring the 2004 theme of 'Australia's Coins' struck to Gem Uncirculated finish (close to proof

coin quality), it makes for a unique wedding present or collectable. The Wedding Coin Set is the perfect gift for the bridal couple to give as a thank you gift to members of the wedding party, parents, grandparents, or family and friends who may travel long distance to share the day. At a time when sentiment, love, loyalty and companionship are shared and cherished, a gift which is a time capsule of the year of the wedding will offer an opportunity to continue the tradition of recognising significant family occasions through

the collection of coins. The set also includes a plaque that enables you to personalise the gift.

The 2004 Wedding Set is presented in a lavish cream-coloured outer case, with burgundy velvet lining to set off the brilliance of the coins on display. Give the happy couple a present that will, in time, become an heirloom and offer a lasting reminder of the special day.

2003 Wedding Sets will continue to be available from the Mint for a very limited time.

Price (inc GST): \$73.00

Nominal Specifications: See Proof Year Sets



2004 Silver Kangaroo Proof & Frosted Uncirculated Coins

The Mint introduces a new 'Roo with a limited mintage!

After the successful and well-received 3-year series of Aboriginal designs on our Fine Silver Kangaroo Dollar, the Mint this year presents a new design direction for our bush icon and national symbol. Response to market research conducted by the Mint during 2003 has seen a contemporary design by Mint designer, Wojciech Pietranik on the Kangaroo dollar coins. Wojciech has captured the power and grace of Australia's most widely recognised animal in his modern design on the reverse, featuring a kangaroo silhouetted against the horizon and orb of the sun.

The year 2004 marks the 12th annual release and continues to bring both traditional and modern qualities to a design synonymous with Australia, making it a wonderful gift for Australians and overseas visitors. The silver kangaroo also embodies the characteristics that have made the Royal Australian Mint renowned among collectors both in Australia and overseas: quality of design, superior craftsmanship, attractive packaging and reasonable pricing.

The \$1 Fine Silver Kangaroo coin is available in two distinctive finishes: the proof finish lends a peerless air of quality to the presentation of the coin. The frosted uncirculated coin brings a new dimension and interesting finish to one of our most popular products.

For the first time, the \$1 Fine Silver Kangaroo Proof Coin will have a limited mintage of only 12,500 and include a numbered certificate of authenticity – a development that is sure to excite collectors!

Price (inc GST):
Proof - \$54.00
Frosted - \$24.60

Nominal Specifications

Denomination	\$1
Metal	Fine Silver (99.9%)
Mass	One Troy Ounce
Diameter	40.00 mm
Finish	Proof / Frosted Uncirculated
Mintage (Proof)	12 500
Mintage (Frosted)	Unlimited
Designer	Wojciech Pietranik



2004 Uncirculated Year Sets

Australia's favourite coins return – by popular demand!

As the Royal Australian Mint's most popular issue, the Uncirculated Year Sets have previously set a high standard that each year we try to improve upon. This year is no exception, as we introduce to you our 2004 Uncirculated Year Set, with the theme of 'Australia's Coins'. The set comprises Australia's six original design circulating coins, set in an eye-catching display card that fits into a sleeve.

Whether you are an experienced collector or new to the hobby of numismatics, or just looking for an

original and affordable gift for friends, family or visitors from overseas – this set offers an opportunity to own a set of Australia's cherished original coin designs. Each coin tells a story and gives an insight into why Australia is such a wonderful place to live – these stories are what makes Australia's coins 'come alive'.

Acknowledge and respect the wisdom and culture of the Aboriginal elder beneath a starry sky on the \$2 coin. Marvel at the power and grace of the mob of kangaroos on the move on the \$1 coin. Stand proud at the sight of our unique Coat of Arms on the 50c piece representing all

Australians. Contemplate the tranquil scene of a sleek platypus effortlessly diving under the sun-kissed water of an Australian river on the 20c coin. Admire the spectacular plumage of the proud lyrebird as it preens itself on the 10c piece. Last, but not least, admire the beautiful and cute echidna as it reveals its soft underside on the 5c piece.

Every 2004 Uncirculated Year Set is struck to a resplendent, detailed finish and will inspire the imagination of Australians for years to come.

Price (inc GST): \$23.50



Nominal Specifications: See Proof Year Sets



Why Collectors Love Australia's Coins...

1. I can't stop. I am addicted. I find the quality, clarity and presentation irresistible and keep coming back for more. *IG Qld*
2. I like money and I can't think of a better way to collect it than straight from the source. *BK NSW*
3. I cherish their beauty and vividness as I share the pleasure with others while visualising the development of Australia's heritage and culture. *FO SA*
4. Every year brings another beautiful surprise! Imagination, artistry, colour, originality: at least four things not found in coins anywhere else in the world. This is why I have collected for over 25 years. *VV NSW*
5. My wife and I visited the Mint on our honeymoon in 1970 and bought the 1970 Year Set and have bought them every year as a celebration of our marriage and its beginnings every year since. *IE Vic*
6. They just make you want them! Because they are of the finest quality, interesting, look good and always full of surprises with the most stunning of designs. And Australians have the chance of designing them. *CR WA*
7. As a child I helped my grandfather organise his coin collection. This helps me connect to that part of my life and to the memory of spending time with him. *KH Vic*
8. They are unique and professionally made here in Australia. The coins relate to everyday Australian issues be it cities, wildlife, events, landmarks or anything 'Australian'! They are just plain fun to have, enjoy and collect. *KM Vic*
9. I am fascinated by the talent the designers display through their creative art and proud to be able to add these coins to my collection. I have never been disappointed. *MG Qld*
10. I want my sons, in an authentic artistic form, to have a year by year historical account of Australian life spanning the decades in which they live. "A thing of beauty is a joy forever". *MM Vic*
11. Collecting Royal Australian Mint coins allows me to build a culturally diverse history of significant Australian events and icons while at the same time providing a superbly crafted growing heirloom to pass onto my children. *SD SA*
12. I saved coins from an early age. Pennies, half-pennies, page by page. Decimal currency hit the scene. Size, design made me keen. Colours in proof sets excited me; My collection now a sight to see. *RJ NSW*
13. It seems funny, actually buying money! But I don't give a hoot, I look at my loot. And give a wry smile at the valuable pile. Most are divine, unique and sublime, Satisfaction every time! *KB Qld*

Secrets of the Mint Competition Winner!

The Mint's coins-
Collector's delight!
Their quality peerless,
Their finishes bright.
With silver so fine
And gold so pure,
Their striking designs
Help memories endure.
Informative booklets;
Neatly displayed –
And greatest of all...
Australian made!

MH South Australia



Australian Banknotes

In this Mint Issue two new products will be released; the (BA 03) first prefix \$5 note and the (DF 03) last prefix \$10 note.

The (BA 03) first prefix \$5 note is the first 2003 \$5 note to be offered. The (DF 03) last prefix \$10 note complements the (AA 03) first prefix \$10 note released earlier in the year. Both notes retain a Macfarlane / Henry signature combination.

The release of these notes sees us offer for the last time the (BA 02) first prefix \$5 note and the (GL 02) last prefix \$10 note.

We remind readers that 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 notes, intended to satisfy the public's demand for crisp new notes, are also available at face value.

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

• Student Coin Design Competition

This year's Student Coin Design Competition has achieved a strong response from primary schools all around Australia. The Mint received 2599 entries from 849 primary schools in all states & territories. The winner will be announced on November 7.

• Changes to 'Mint Issue' mailing policy

From November 2003, all Mint customers will receive 'Mint Issue' at the same time. Under this arrangement, Friends of the Mint will receive priority order processing and delivery if they return their order to the Mint by the date specified on their order form. All of our customers will now be able to order on-line via our website as soon as you have received 'Mint Issue'.

• Melbourne and Sydney Agricultural Shows

Thank you to all our customers who took the time to come and visit us at the Mint's stand at the Melbourne Show. We were heartened by the warm reception afforded to our staff and the positive response from collectors to

our product range. The Mint will also be attending the Sydney Easter Show, and we encourage all of our valued customers to drop in and visit us and have a chat.

• Christmas delivery information

If you would like to receive your coins in time for Christmas, please ensure your order reaches us on or before

28 November. Please see Order Form for further details.

• Sold out

The Mint is pleased to declare sell-outs for both the 2003 Finale hologram coin and the 2003 Sydney Mint Pattern. Thanks to our collectors for the overwhelmingly positive response to these issues.

Proposed Release Schedule 2004 (subject to change)

January

- 'C' Mintmark – 150th Anniversary of Eureka Stockade. Available only on the 'Mint your own Coin Press at the Mint' from January 2004.

February

- 2004 Subscription Coin (Separate Mail-out)
- 'C' Mintmark – Eureka Stockade Mint Issue release
- \$1 Silver Proof – Eureka Stockade
- \$5 Silver Proof – Adelaide to Darwin Rail Line
- \$5 Selectively Plated Proof – AFL "Australia's Own Sport"

March

- Australia's Official Summer Olympics Sport Series – 3 Coins (Tri-metal, Silver, Al/Bronze)

May

- 'S' & 'B' Mintmark – Eureka Stockade
- Fine Silver Proof Year Set
- \$1 Silver Kangaroo – Selectively Gold Plated
- 50 cent Silver Proof – Bicentenary of Tasmanian Settlement



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT

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