

# Mint Issue



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT

July 2003 Number 53



## Port Phillip Patterns

**THE GOLD REGIONS  
AND THE ROAD TO THEM**  
THESE PORTIONS OF THE MAP MARKED WITH LINES

# DearCollector

This edition of Mint Issue is a special one indeed. First of all, it sees the final release in the nine-year Floral Emblems of Australia series. This long series comes to an end with the issue of three beautiful coins featuring the Royal Bluebell, the floral emblem of the Australian Capital Territory, the home of the Mint. Full details of the coins are on the following page.

The second important release is the annual Masterpieces in Silver - The Port Phillip Patterns. On the 150th anniversary of their original production in 1853, four modern fine silver proof coins host the four Patterns in their original size and as close as possible to their original design.

The story of Australia's Port Phillip Patterns is an intriguing numismatic one. Basically a failed business venture, no doubt one of many such ventures of Victoria's gold discovery era, it has nonetheless left behind 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 Port Phillip Bay not carried out? Instead they resurfaced in 1917 when found during stocktaking by the later owners of the press, Stokes & Son. This little known Australian numismatic story is a timely one to tell and publicise. Hopefully some of the questions can be answered as more people take an interest in this issue. Through releases such as this one and the previously issued Holey Dollar and Dump, the Proclamation coins, the Adelaide Pound and others in the Masterpieces in Silver series highlighting Australian 'icon' coin issues, we play a part in increasing Australians' knowledge of, and interest in our short, but fascinating numismatic history. It is a role that all of us at the Mint are proud to take on and, I believe, fulfil with distinction.

I hope you enjoy what we have to offer you in this edition of Mint Issue.



Vivienne Thom  
Controller  
Royal Australian Mint

# FloralEmblems

## Our Australian Capital Territory's Floral Emblem

The final release of this 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 throughout the ACT, New South Wales and Victoria. It flowers from spring into autumn (October to March) and has striking violet-blue flowers, which are up to 2 to 3 cm in diameter and are carried on generally long, thin stems.

While it is a small plant that is not very noticeable, when in flower it is nonetheless striking because of the bright colour of its flowers contrasting against a generally dry background. The plant can be cultivated in gardens with propagation being by seed, cuttings and root division.

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 and uncirculated coins. Both of the \$100 coins 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.

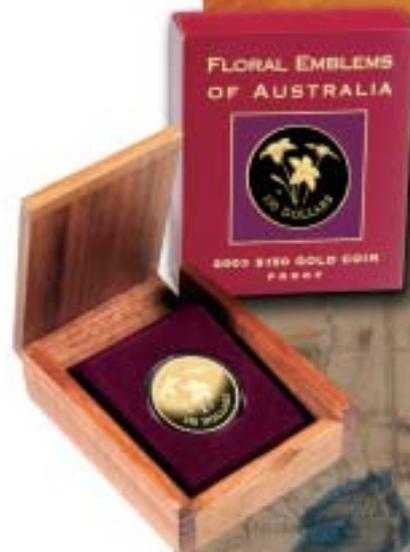


### Prices (incl GST):

<b>\$150 Proof</b>	<b>- \$580.85</b>
<b>\$100 Proof</b>	<b>- \$350.34</b>
<b>\$100 Uncirculated</b>	<b>- \$260.44</b>
<b>Lapel Badge</b>	<b>- \$14.95</b>

### 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				



# Port Phillip Patterns

*Commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the patterns.*

The story of the Port Phillip Patterns, also known as the Taylor Patterns or the Kangaroo Office Patterns is about an early nineteenth century entrepreneur for whom this venture brought no success, yet left behind an Australian numismatic enigma. As part of this intriguing story, many thousands of Australians have struck and continue to strike their own coins on the visitor's press at the Mint, made by 'Taylor&Challen' a company that evolved from Taylor's own engineering company.

The Patterns were four 'tokens' made from gold, weighing respectively one quarter ounce, one half ounce, one ounce and two ounces. They were to resemble money as closely as legally possible, but would be valuable and could be traded for their gold content.

When the concept was developed, the miners of the Victorian gold fields were not receiving the full value for their gold; only being paid a percentage of its worth. An England based die-sinker, WJ Taylor, devised a scheme to be able to buy the gold from the miners, then upgrade and produce gold tokens obtaining the full value of the precious metal, and making a profit for himself and his partners.

It reportedly took six months to dismantle, unload, cart and rebuild the press at its new Melbourne premises, called the Kangaroo Office – hence the name Kangaroo Office Patterns. This was because the dockside cranes were not large enough to handle tonnage of this size as well as a shortage of manual labour.

However, since the original conception of the project, matters had changed for the better for the gold miners; gold prices had risen and sovereigns were also in free supply. The future for the Kangaroo Office was now bleak.

The production of the Patterns was seen as further strengthening of Melbourne's claim to have a mint established in the city. Melbourne and Sydney were in competition to have a branch of the Royal Mint established in their respective colonies to refine their gold and produce desperately



# The Story

needed coinage for the local economy.

After the setback with the Patterns, Taylor decided to use the press to strike tradesmen's tokens. This venture also was unprofitable and so the Kangaroo Office was closed down. Some of the dies were shipped back to London and the press was sold to Thomas Stokes in 1857.

Stokes continued to operate the press until 1914. It had produced some 82 penny and half penny tokens and was responsible for some early Army badges and buttons by the time it was decommissioned. The press was sold as scrap and dismantled in 1936.

The closure of the Kangaroo Office only added to the questions that would be asked many years later. Why were the dies not dropped into Port Phillip Bay as instructed? How many genuine Patterns are in existence?

## ***Designing the Commemorative Port Phillip Pattern issue for the Masterpieces in Silver series.***

In deciding to commemorate this little known piece of numismatic history, 150 years after the first Patterns were produced, the Mint staff had the difficult task of trying to find accurate information about the Patterns. In the National Coin Collection are pictures from the British Museum of each of the original Patterns that the British Museum bought, as well as restrikes of the Patterns. Each design of the Kangaroo was slightly different on each Pattern. It appears that each Pattern was individually engraved and a single Kangaroo design was not used for all Patterns. The cross-hatched design around the rims of the coins also varies for each of the Patterns.

Using the enlarged pictures of the Patterns from the British Museum, designer and engraver Vladimir Gottwald then proceeded to recreate as close to the original as possible, each one of the four Kangaroo images for each Pattern, in plaster format. Then the wonders of modern technology came into play. The engraver was able to reproduce on plaster in the traditional manner, only a section of the cross-hatching surrounding each of the Kangaroo images rather than the full cross-hatched design around the outer edge of the coin. Using the computerised laser scanner, these sections of cross-hatch



# Masterpieces in Silver

patterns were then scanned and extended to a complete outer edge surrounding the central design of the Kangaroo. The modern plasters of the Kangaroos and the section of the cross-hatching was then scanned into the computer and dies cut directly on the computer engraving machine. The Port Phillip Patterns, faithful to their original size and with the designs as close as possible to the originals then reappeared on dies some 150 years later, manufactured by modern technology.

The designs of the Patterns are each produced within a fine silver 'host' coin, so making four host coins.

The silver replicas enable each collector to own a full set of the original Kangaroo Office Patterns, with their designs as close to the original as possible. While the original Patterns were in gold, the use of gold for these replicas would make this set too expensive for most collectors to own.

Because of their history the Patterns, produced in fine silver, make a beautiful modern Masterpieces in Silver set and enable all collectors to enjoy this piece of Australian numismatic history.

An informative booklet gives further detailed background to the story of the Patterns and includes a numbered Certificate of Authenticity. The mintage is limited to just 10,000 sets.

## Reverses Shown

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
Mintage	10 000			
Engraver	Vladimir Gottwald			



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

# Rugby World Cup 2003

*The game played in heaven – the coin made in Australia*

## ***\$5 base metal coin in a special 'Display' presentation card***

Many rugby enthusiasts from around the world will be interested in having a souvenir of these games, and the Mint has produced a base metal \$5 coin in a special presentation card. The card that represents a new format for the Mint, enables the coin to be easily displayed in an office, display case or above a young person's bed next to the picture of a victorious John Eales holding aloft the Webb Ellis Trophy in 2001!

The coin image is an action shot of a player running up to take a penalty kick – perhaps the kick that wins for his team the hallowed trophy! The display card provides information about the Rugby World Cup 2003, and a picture of the Telstra Stadium where the finals will be played.

## ***\$5 Fine Silver Proof coin***

A magnificent collector coin produced for this event, the \$5 proof fine silver coin displays, on a gold plated background, the trophy that epitomises the Rugby World Cup 2003. Beautifully struck, using the Mint's latest technology of selective gold plating, this is a *must* for all collectors, not only lovers of the game played in heaven.



**Price** (incl GST):

**Proof - \$77.00**

**Uncirculated - \$14.95**

Finish	Proof	Uncirculated
Denomination	\$5	\$5
Metal	Fine Silver (99.9%)	Al/Zn Bronze
Selective Plate	24 ct Gold	-
Mass	1 Troy Ounce	20.00 grams
Diameter	40.00 mm	38.74 mm
Mintage	20 000	Unlimited

## **Exclusive to Mint Issue. Win Two Tickets to the Semi-Finals in Sydney!**

Two Rugby World Cup semi-final games will be played in Sydney on November 15th and 16th, 2003. Collectors who purchase the uncirculated \$5.00 Rugby World Cup coin will be entered into a draw to win 'A Reserve' seats to these games. There will be two winners drawn, and each winner will receive two tickets to a semi-final match (competition details are on the back of the order form). We will automatically add your name to the entries when your order is processed.

Good News! For those who have already purchased the \$5 Rugby World Cup proof coin, your names are already entered in the draw.

# Vietnam Veterans' Coin

*Honouring our Vietnam Veterans*

This coin issue released in May has been very positively received. Honouring 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 pictorial image on the holder and outer sleeve is of the Memorial at night and it is these features of the Memorial that are highlighted on the coin.

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 presentation card and coin slip 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
Mintage	Unlimited

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

# New GST Arrangements

***Latest information regarding GST on precious metal coins.***

At the time of the Mint Issue going to press, the Australian Taxation Office has not advised if its draft public ruling, proposing that the full 10% GST should be charged on modern issue silver and gold collector coins, might come into effect. ***If, during the life of this Mint Issue a new GST arrangement comes into effect, prices of precious metal collector coins will be affected and the Mint reserves the right to change prices accordingly.***

# Korean War Coins

*50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Korean War*

## **\$1 Fine Silver Proof Coin**

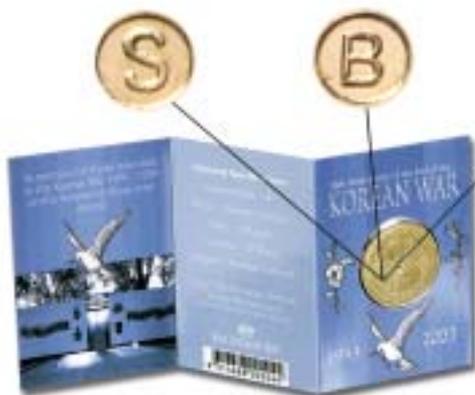
Collectors and Veterans alike have given this coin a very positive reaction. This beautiful \$1 silver coin honours and remembers all those brave Australians, who served in the Korean War. The coin's design is deeply symbolic. On each side of the Dove of Peace, the national floral emblems of South Korea and Australia are set against a panel of vertical lines. These lines echo the stainless steel poles standing outside the Memorial, which represent the Australians who died in this war.

The mintage is limited to only 15,000 coins.

## **\$1 Mintmark coins**

The Mint's Mintmark collection continues to be well supported by new and serious collectors alike. The 2003 Mintmarks are now available (C-Canberra, S-Sydney, and B- Brisbane). Not only a fine coin series to collect, it makes a wonderful gift for the Veterans in our families as well as a fine piece of Australiana to offer as gifts to overseas visitors or when overseas yourself.

The aluminium bronze coin commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Price** (incl GST):

**Proof - \$34.20**

**Mintmark - \$2.50**

## *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	

# CoronationCoins

## *Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Coronation*

With the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation having taken place on 2 June, Australian and overseas collectors have shown great interest in the precious metal Two Coin Set issued to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Queen's Coronation. The designs of both these coins have been approved by Buckingham Palace.

The gold coin's design is highly symbolic, with images of Australian wattle, appearing both around the coin itself and also in the Queen's tiara. It portrays the Queen as a determined, young woman with the crown over her cipher, 'EIIIR', indicating her assuming the role of Queen. This gold coin is however, only available in a set together with the silver proof coin. To complement the two coins in the set is a booklet, which relates details of the Coronation, and also contains your signed Certificate of Authenticity.

A contemporary approach inspires the silver coin design. It 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 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**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	18.24 (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

## *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coronation Philatelic and Numismatic Cover*

The Mint and Australia Post have collaborated to offer our collectors a superb coin and stamp issue. Together with the 50c Coronation design, approved by Buckingham Palace, the Mint has 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.

Numismatically interesting in its own right, this uncirculated coin makes history by being the only Australian 50c coin ever to be offered by the Mint in aluminium bronze. A limited number of these envelopes with this very special coin are still available for collectors to purchase directly from Mint Issue.

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

### *Special Offer – Companion Set Presentation Case*

This special offer is intended for our collectors, who purchased the Accession set and the Coronation set directly from Mint Issue. A beautiful Jarrah presentation case to unite all four coins for display, will be automatically included in your order, absolutely free of charge. Customers, who purchase both the Accession and Coronation sets through this Mint Issue, will also receive this complementary presentation case.



# Volunteers Six Coin Sets

## *Australia's Year Sets salute our Volunteers*

Both the Six Coin Proof and Uncirculated Year Sets, house three coins specially produced for 2003 highlighting 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 features a 'group portrait' of Australians illustrating that our volunteers hail from all walks of life.

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

### *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



### *Last Chance – to win a behind the scenes visit to the Mint!*

*To further celebrate the issue of these 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 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 to 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



This year's specially commissioned Aboriginal designed \$1 silver proof and frosted uncirculated Kangaroo coins are jumping out of the Mint! Aboriginal designer Ray Thomas of Victoria has designed an impressive coin that makes it the third and final coin in a memorable series of Aboriginal designs, of this Australian bush icon. ***This will be the last Aboriginal design for a few years, as next year we will revert to a standard image of a kangaroo.*** Ensure that you obtain this coin which is a fitting culmination of this present series and, at the same time, a wonderful modern expression of Aboriginal art. These coins make a beautiful and classic gift for friends and family within Australia or overseas.

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



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

# Wedding Coin Collection

A wonderful gift to last a lifetime! 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, close to proof quality, and are set in a cream coloured presentation case. They come complete with a gift card and an elegant outer packaging featuring two magnificent brologas in a courtship dance. The set also includes a plaque that enables you to personalise the gift. This set is a truly memorable gift for newly-weds.

Finish: Gem Uncirculated  
Nominal Specifications: see Six Coin Sets

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



# Friends of the Mint

For some time, the Mint has been keen to acknowledge those of its collectors who have purchased, directly from the Mint over many years, a large range of our issues. After much consideration, the 'Friends of the Mint' program was established in May last year when we invited a number of our collectors to join this group.

The 'Friends' is open to collectors who have purchased coins directly from Mint Issue for at least the last three consecutive calendar years, spending at least \$350 per calendar year, each year, during this time. Collectors remain a 'Friend' for as long as they continue to collect from the Mint and purchase collector coins valued \$350 or more per calendar year.

The benefits of belonging to the 'Friends of the Mint' are:

- Mint Issue will be forwarded to 'Friends' a few days before the general mailing, so that they have a chance to preview the new releases and place orders if they wish.
- Friends will enjoy priority dispatch of orders received within 7 working days of Mint Issue being sent out.
- Friends receive 'reply paid' envelopes with their orders. (*Australian Customers Only*)
- One special non-numismatic item will be offered each year exclusively to members. The offer for 2003 is a special lapel badge reserved solely for purchase by 'Friends'.
- 'Friends' will be kept advised of happenings at the Mint via a special mailing of our exclusive 'Friends' publication, '*Collector*'.

We plan to develop other ways of showing our appreciation to our loyal collectors and will keep our 'Friends' advised of our plans.

## 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 Volunteer coins. The proof \$1 coin is pad-printed with a stylised map of Australia while the uncirculated coin has the design in 'struck' format. A fine silver medallion in the proof set and a base metal medallion in the uncirculated set enables a personal message to be engraved and the set becomes a very personal gift to a precious new life. These sets are an heirloom in the making and a wonderful gift for the new parents.

**Price (incl GST):**

**Proof - \$89.50**

**Uncirculated - \$29.33**

Nominal Specifications: See Six Coin Sets

# Australian Banknotes

We have received a good response to the first time offer in the May Mint Issue of the last prefix (PE 99) \$50 note. We also continue to receive a good response to the first prefix (BA 02) and last prefix (EA 02) 2002 Queen \$5 notes that were offered for the first time in February Mint Issue.

This Mint Issue offers a banknote printed in 2003 for the first time with the release of the (AA 03) first prefix \$10 note. This note includes the printed names of AB (Banjo) Paterson and Dame Mary Gilmore below the portraits and has Macfarlane/Henry signature combination. Printed names will be included on all notes (except \$5 notes) printed from 2002 onwards.

We remind readers that first and last prefix numismatic banknotes 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](http://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

## 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**



## The Mint Visits Melbourne

The Mint will attend the MELBOURNE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW between 18th and 28th September and will be in a pavilion on Lennon Avenue. As a result we will not be attending the ANDA Show in Melbourne between Friday 10th and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 might 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.

## Primary School Student coin design competition.

Details of this competition were announced on 6 May by Senator Ian Campbell, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, on the 'TODAY' show on Channel 9 and at a Perth Primary School later that day.

The Guidelines and Entry Form for the competition are on our website, [www.ramint.gov.au](http://www.ramint.gov.au). The competition closes on 15 August and the winner will be announced on 7 November 2003, with the coin being issued around the middle of 2004. We would suggest that collectors with children or grandchildren in primary schools encourage the schools to enter the competition. The winning school receives a prize of \$10,000 from the Mint and the young designer will have his or her initials minted on the coin.



*Above: Senator Campbell (second from left) with the Principal and students of Campbell Primary School at the competition launch in WA.*

## Mint scheduled releases

(subject to change)

### September

- 2003 Finale Hologram coin, the final in the 3 coin series of 'Finale' coins
- Commemorative Numismatic Issue – the 1853 Sydney Sovereign Pattern

### November

- The first of the 2004 dated issues will be released.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT

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