

# NIE

## SAY WHAT?

To coin a phrase:  
To create a new expression; or to use an expression that's very popular or overused.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Monarchs are usually the only living people depicted on circulating coins, but the Mint may portray famous Aussies.

## COMMEMORATING COINS | Part Three

## ABOUT COINS



The earliest currency used in NSW was English money.

## Aussie coins

BEFORE the establishment of the British colony in New South Wales in 1788, the indigenous people of this country traded goods as a means of exchange.

With only a small quantity of English and foreign coins brought with the First Fleet, the need for currency soon became apparent.

The earliest currency used was English money, and also the Spanish dollar brought by the early ships.

Governor Macquarie tried to remedy the coin shortage by the creation of the holey dollar. He had the centres of Spanish dollars punched out, leaving a ring (the holey dollar), and the cores became dumps.

With no adequate solution to the currency problem, the British Government legislated a sterling currency for the colony in 1825.

**MORE:** Aussie coins continues in part four.

## IN MINT CONDITION



# Striking effect continues

WITH technological advances, the minting of coins is performed using sophisticated computer-controlled machinery. The coin blanks used for striking coins are made from strips of metal that have the exact thickness specified for each denomination. These strips are fed

through a blanking press that punches out round discs (with the exception of the 12-sided 50 cent coin) called blanks. The blanks then go through a machine that puts a raised edge around the rim. Controlled heating in a furnace – called annealing – softens the blanks so they can be struck to capture the

full relief of the designs. The blanks then pass through a chemical bath for a clean and are burnished to give them a smooth finish. They are now ready to go to the coining press, where they are stamped with the designs and inscriptions. One of the mint's robots tips the blanks into a hopper and they travel along a

conveyor belt to the coin presses. During this final stage, the obverse and reverse dies are installed in the press. Then the blanks are fed through and the denomination and design is pressed onto the reverse (tails) as the portrait of the current monarch is pressed into the obverse (head) of the coin.

Under the pressure of this striking process, the metal spreads and stretches in the press's collar, giving the coin a sharper rim. This is how coins get the grooves you often see around their edges. The coins are then inspected for quality, counted and bagged for distribution, when they will be placed into circulation.

## COLLECTING COINS

# The legends behind the medals

COMMEMORATIVE coins with special designs depicting anniversaries or marking significant events, people or organisations are produced as pieces for collections. News Corp Australia is offering an exclusive and limited edition Legends of the ANZACS collection of legal tender coins produced by the Royal Australian Mint. Honouring and recognising the Anzac

Centenary commemorative period, each coin explores a different piece of Australia's military history. The 14-coin collection includes four unique issued 25 cent coins, plus 10 silver 20 cent coins, each themed with a different design. The coins representing significant military decorations are exact replicas of the medals, with stories covering 100 years of Anzac, from the First World War to current deployment.

The coin's backing card explains the origin of the medal and its significance, as well as the story of a recipient of the medal and how they earned it. Available for purchase through your newspaper, the coins can be collected at participating newsagents from April 9 to April 23. The first coin, the Victoria Cross, and collector's album are free on day one and the remaining 13 coins will be available for \$3 each.

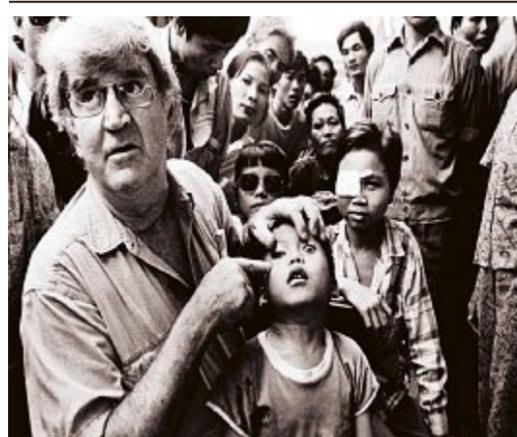
## Interesting facts: Medal for Gallantry

- The Medal for Gallantry is awarded to members of the Australian Defence Force for gallant acts under hazardous conditions in operational conflicts, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Rwanda and Vietnam.
- Introduced in 1991, it is one of the top three gallantry decorations in the Australian honours system.
- The medal has been presented 66 times.
- Second Lieutenant Peter Sibree was awarded the Medal for Gallantry for a series of actions in South Vietnam in 1965.
- Sibree proved himself as an outstanding commander who showed consistent leadership and courage. Sibree's platoon carried out many successful operations against the Viet Cong.



The Medal for Gallantry copper-plated 25 cent coin. PHOTO: ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT

## TOMORROW: Commemorating coins Part 4



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