

NIE

SAY WHAT?

Two sides of the same coin: Different but closely related features of one idea; or two different aspects of the same situation.



DID YOU KNOW?

Many of Australia's one and two cent coins (taken out of circulation in 1992) were melted down to be turned into the bronze medals for the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

COMMEMORATING COINS | Part Four

ABOUT COINS



Aussie coins

EIGHT years after 1901's Federation, the government passed a bill allowing Australia to have its own coins.

In 1910, our country began issuing its first national currency with the introduction of the Australian Commonwealth silver coin.

At the time, none of Australia's three mints were set up to strike the new currency, so the coins were struck in London.

In 1911, bronze pennies and halfpennies were introduced.

The silver coins continued to be struck overseas up until 1916, and the bronze coins until 1918.

In 1913, the first series of Australian notes was issued, based on the old British sterling system.

Today's decimal currency was introduced in 1966, when dollars and cents replaced the pounds, shillings and pence.

IN MINT CONDITION



Striking unique coin designs

SINCE 1955, Australian mints have been striking limited-mintage, high-quality specialised coins specifically for collectors.

These coins are made in a range of finishes and feature different themes, which may commemorate events or anniversaries or cover topics about flora or fauna, major landmarks or key artwork.

Uncirculated coins are made from the same materials as circulated coins and either have their own unique design or are a special version of a circulating coin.

Because they are struck at a slower rate and with greater force, they have a sharper image with more clearly-defined edges and are

slightly more polished.

Proof coins are generally made with valuable metals such as gold and silver.

The term "proof" refers to the method of the coin's manufacture.

Proofs are carefully struck coins using special dies and are treated, hand-polished, and cleaned to ensure high-quality strikes.

With only a small number of copies available, these coins are specially presented with a certificate of authenticity determining the genuineness of the coin.

FACTS:

■ The Royal Australian Mint is the only mint that has authority to produce uncirculated varieties of Australia's circulating coins

in base or precious metals.

■ The Royal Australian Mint produced two ground-breaking coin designs as collector's items. The Southern Cross – Crux, a dome-shaped \$5 coin depicting the night sky, and the triangular, silver \$5 coin which was made to mark the 25th anniversary of the Australian Parliament House.

COLLECTING COINS

Keeping the Anzac story alive

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 25 cent coins, plus 10 silver 20 cent coins, each themed with a different design.

The coins represent significant military decorations and 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:

Nursing Service Cross

■ Introduced in 1989, the Nursing Service Cross is awarded to members of the Australian Defence Force who demonstrate outstanding devotion and competence in the performance of nursing duties, or perform an act of exceptional dedication in both operational and non-operational situations.

■ There have been 28 recipients and 1 Bar since the NSC's establishment.

■ Staff Sergeant Kim Felmingham was awarded the Nursing Service Cross for her outstanding devotion to duty while providing medical assistance to East Timorese civilians following a vehicle accident on January 14, 2000.

■ Kim was the first medic on the scene and provided triage, treatment and support before coordinating the evacuation of casualties.

■ Recognised for her professionalism and calm demeanour, Kim's award was bestowed on her by Queen Elizabeth II.



The Nursing Service Cross silver 20 cent coin. PHOTO: THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT

TOMORROW: Commemorating coins Part 5

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