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PERTH MINT ISSUES LIMITED COLLECTOR SETS MARKING 40th ANNIVERSARY OF DECIMALISATION

CANBERRA: The Perth Mint has issued Figures of Note, a special commemorative program of Australian legal tender silver coins marking the 40th anniversary of decimalisation.

The Perth Mint's Chief Executive Officer, Ed Harbuz, said the program would be welcomed by numismatists as a significant reminder of the day in February 1966 when Australia introduced its own unique notes and coinage with designs reflecting Australian history, culture and wildlife.

"The extremely limited availability of Figures of Note ensures it will always be a rare and desirable memento of decimalisation that will be coveted by many Australian collectors," he said.



Struck from 1oz of 99.9% pure silver in proof quality, each of the five coins in the program depicts historic figures as they were originally represented on Australia's first decimal currency notes, issued by the Reserve Bank of Australia between 1966 and 1974. The Figures of Note are:

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Australia's Sovereign, who appeared on the front of Australia's first \$1 note.

John Macarthur (1767–1834), a noted contributor to the development of the Australian wool industry, as he appeared on the front of the first \$2 note; and **William James Farrer** (1845–1906), the developer of drought resistant 'Federation' wheat, as he appeared on the back of the first \$2 note.



Sir Joseph Banks (1743–1820), the English botanist who made the first major collection of Australian flora, as he appeared on the front of the first \$5 note; and **Caroline Chisholm** (1808–1877), 'the emigrant's friend', as she appeared on the back of the first \$5 note.



Francis Greenway (1777–1837), the convict architect employed by Governor Macquarie, as he appeared on the front of the first \$10 note; and **Henry Lawson** (1867–1922), one of Australia's best known writers, as he appeared on the back of the first \$10 note.

Sir Charles Kingsford Smith (1897–1935), Australia's famous aviator, as he appeared on the front of the first \$20 note; and **Lawrence Hargrave** (1850–1915), the astronomer and aeronautical pioneer, as he appeared on the back of the first \$20 note.



The reverse of each coin, which also incorporates The Perth Mint's 'P' mintmark, benefits from the use of a special colour treatment. The obverse of each coin depicts Ian Rank-Broadley's effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Figures of Note coin program is available in a number of extremely limited formats. Just 2,500 Five-Coin Sets will be issued, each housed in a blue leatherette presentation case accompanied by a numbered Certificate of Authenticity; and only 150 Five-Coin and Note Sets, which include examples of Australia's original \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10 and \$20 notes in Fine condition, are also available. Each Five-Coin and Note Set is housed in a similar blue presentation case accompanied by a numbered Certificate of Authenticity.

"The Perth Mint was heavily involved in preparations for the switch to Australia's own decimal currency, striking millions of the new 1 cent and 2 cent coins in 1965 alone," Ed Harbuz said. "Our close association with decimalisation adds special significance to this superb commemorative program."

The Figures of Note five coin set is priced at only \$362.50 and is available from The Perth Mint on FREECALL 1800 098 817, through The Perth Mint Shop located at 310 Hay Street, East Perth, Australia Post outlets, leading coin dealers, and via the web at www.perthmint.com.au

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