



Friday 4 August 2006

MEDIA RELEASE

SEVEN COINS IN ONE MAKE NUMISMATIC HISTORY

The Perth Mint has released a spectacular commemorative coin which showcases six miniature pre-decimal coins in a central locket.

The President of the Australian Numismatic Dealers Association (ANDA) officially unveiled this superb tribute at the ANDA Coin, Note and Stamp Show at Royal Randwick Racecourse today, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of decimalisation.

The commemorative coin is struck from 1oz of 99.9% pure silver in proof quality. Its outer border features the words AUSTRALIAN PRE-DECIMAL COINS 2006 and the first official Australian Coat of Arms, granted by Royal Warrant in 1908. Issued as legal tender under the Australian *Currency Act 1965*, its obverse depicts the Ian Rank-Broadley effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The new coin's eye-catching central 'locket', however, is the star attraction. Literally encapsulating a slice of Australian numismatic heritage, it contains six tiny pre-decimals recreated by The Perth Mint with exacting precision.

The Mint's General Manager of Minted Products, Veronica Maguire, said that "pre-decimal coins are favourites among Australian collectors of all ages and being able to showcase each of these historic coins in the one coin has been a remarkable achievement".

The locket coin concept, pioneered by the Mint in 2002, has had numerous success stories attributed to this innovative design element. The Eureka Stockade 150th Anniversary silver locket coin, which encapsulates natural gold nuggets, has had a dramatic impact on world numismatics. Now tantalisingly close to 'sell out', it was awarded the title of 'most innovative silver coin' at the 2006 Mint Directors' Conference in Paris, and at the 2005 Vicenza Numismatica, a highly respected European coin fair, it won 2nd place in the 'finest coin in the world' competition.

This latest release, Australian Pre-decimal Coins 2006, takes the locket concept to a new level of originality. Inside its central locket, it contains miniature replicas of a:

- 1931 florin ~ made from sterling silver, the replica bears the first Australian Coat of Arms surrounded by the words ONE FLORIN - TWO SHILLINGS and the year-date on its reverse.
- 1916 shilling ~ made from sterling silver, the replica bears the first Australian Coat of Arms surrounded by the words ONE SHILLING and the year-date on its reverse.

- 1926 sixpence ~ made from sterling silver, the replica bears the first Australian Coat of Arms surrounded by the words SIXPENCE and the year-date on its reverse.
- 1936 threepence ~ made from sterling silver, the replica bears the first Commonwealth Coat of Arms surrounded by the words THREEPENCE and the year-date on its reverse.
- 1935 penny ~ made from copper, the replica bears the words ONE PENNY surrounded by the inscription COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA and the year-date on its reverse.
- 1934 half penny ~ made from copper, the replica bears the words ONE HALF PENNY surrounded by the inscription COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA and the year-date on its reverse.

Each replica, which depicts Sir E. B. Mackennal's effigy of King George V on its obverse, is 'struck' - meaning it is made in time-honoured fashion following the exact method used to make standard-sized Perth Mint coins.

When compared with alternative production possibilities, the option to strike each miniature coin was more time and resource intensive, but it did produce a superior finished product. In total, the project required seven sets of tooling and 14 dies (seven reverses and seven obverses) to be manufactured. By the end of the project, which has a strictly limited mintage of just 7,500 locket coins, 52,500 individual pieces (seven x 7,500) will have been struck and hand-assembled with painstaking attention to detail.

Befitting a project of this magnitude and its stunning outcome in term of appearance, The Perth Mint has chosen appropriately prestigious presentation packaging. Each coin is housed in a burgundy-coloured crushed velvet presentation case with a box shipper and sleeve illustrated with a dramatic representation of the locket coin's reverse. Each coin is accompanied by a numbered Certificate of Authenticity.

The Australian Pre-Decimal Coins 2006 release makes a truly memorable contribution to this year's most significant numismatic celebration - the 40th anniversary of decimalisation.

The coin, which retails for \$135, is available from The Perth Mint on FREECALL 1800 098 817, through The Perth Mint Shop located at 310 Hay Street, East Perth, from Australia Post outlets and select leading coin dealers and via the web at www.perthmint.com.au

For today only, a display of one of the finest known complete proof sets of George V 1934-dated coins will be showcased at The Perth Mint stand, courtesy of Coinworks and Downies of Melbourne.

PICTURE EDITORS: Images of the Australian Pre-Decimal Coins 2006 can be downloaded from www.perthmint.com.au/gc/distributors/images.asp

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Veronica Maguire, General Manager Minted Products, The Perth Mint
Telephone (08) 9421 7252 Mobile 0412 114 208 Email veronicam@perthmint.com.au