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MEDIA RELEASE

DUYFKEN VOYAGE CELEBRATED IN PURE SILVER

The Perth Mint has released an Australian legal tender commemorative coin celebrating the first known sighting and charting of the Australian coast by a European explorer.

Struck from 1oz of 99.9% pure silver in proof quality, the *Australia on the Map* coin depicts the small Dutch ship *Duyfken* (Little Dove), which 400 years ago in 1606 made landfall on the western shore of Cape York. The coin's design includes the *Duyfken* in full sail and a coloured representation of the expedition's map of 320 kilometres of the Australian coast, as well as The Perth Mint's historic 'P' mintmark.

Under the command of Willem Janszoon, the *Duyfken* sailed from Bantam in Java at the end of 1605, in search of trade opportunities on behalf of the Dutch East India Company. By March 1606, the expedition had crossed the Arafura Sea and sighted the Australian continent, sending a landing party ashore near the future site of the Queensland town of Weipa. Janszoon and his crew, who became the first documented Europeans to encounter Aborigines, literally put Australia on the map!

The coin, which bears the Ian Rank-Broadley effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on its obverse, is housed in a stitched leatherette case, which comes in a spectacular outer box with a decorative cartouche on the lid. It is accompanied by a replica of the original Dutch map and a Certificate of Authenticity.

With a strictly limited mintage of only 10,000, and available at the affordable price of AU\$72.50, *Australia on the Map* will be a popular memento of this historic milestone. Coins are now available through The Perth Mint Shop located at 310 Hay Street in East Perth, by calling toll free on 1800 098 817, or by visiting Australia Post outlets or leading coin dealers, and via the web at www.perthmint.com.au

As part of a maritime tradition, The Perth Mint's *Australia on the Map* coin was set under the main mast of the *Duyfken*. The ship sets sail on its anniversary voyage christened by The Hon John Howard, MP and the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, The Hon Jan Peter Balkenende, at the official launch celebrations held in Fremantle tomorrow, commencing at 10am.

PICTURE EDITORS: Images of the Australia on the Map coin can be downloaded from www.perthmint.com.au/gc/distributors/images.asp

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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