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MEDIA RELEASE

PERTH MINT COIN MARKS CENTENARY OF MAY GIBBS' CLASSIC

In celebration of the *Gumnut Babies'* centenary, The Perth Mint has released a superb commemorative coin featuring original illustrations of one of Australia's most treasured children's authors, May Gibbs.

Struck from 1oz of 99.9% pure silver, the coin is housed in the cover of a specially commissioned limited edition book, which contains a collection of Gibbs' most iconic tales.

Creating personalities out of gumnuts, banksias, flowers, and other Australian flora and fauna, and by employing humour to appeal to all ages, Gibbs captured the imagination of children and adults alike.

"People from all over the world have been touched by the legacy of May Gibbs and her imaginative interpretation of our nation's unique bushland," said Perth Mint Group Manager Minted Products, Neil Vance.

"We are delighted to further bring her stories to life and increase awareness of Australian flora and fauna, through the launch of this exclusive coin and book compilation," he continued.

The reverse of the collector coin depicts a colour image of seven gumnut babies sitting on a eucalypt tree branch, surrounded by gumnuts and gum leaves. The design includes the inscription MAY GIBBS GUMNUT BABIES 100TH ANNIVERSARY, and The Perth Mint's traditional 'P' mintmark.

Issued as legal tender under the Australian *Currency Act 1965*, the coin features the Ian Rank-Broadley effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the 2016 year-date and the monetary denomination on the obverse.

The success of the *Gumnut Babies* tale encouraged May to write and illustrate more short-stories inspired by Australia's native flora, and in quick succession the *Gum Blossom Babies*, *Flannel Flower Babies*, *Boronia Babies*, *Wattle Babies* and others captivated children's hearts.

A nostalgic collectable for those who grew up adoring May Gibbs' work and a delightful gift for new generations of her fans, no more than 2,500 of this exclusive coin and book set will be released.

Priced at \$129.00, the collectable can be purchased from The Perth Mint at 310 Hay Street in East Perth, by telephoning toll free 1800 098 817 or by visiting perthmint.com.au. Collectors can also purchase the release from leading coin dealers and Australia Post outlets.

By purchasing any official May Gibbs merchandise, you can help children and adults with disabilities have access to important services and support to give them the opportunities to live the life they choose.

Each coin has TNS and CPA stamped on them in recognition of disability service providers The Northcott Society and The Cerebral Palsy Alliance, who receive a generous portion of the sales of May Gibbs' products after the author generously bequeathed this gift.

Learn about more of The Perth Mint's collector coins on blog.perthmint.com.au or follow The Perth Mint on Twitter [@perthmint](https://twitter.com/perthmint), Facebook www.facebook.com/theperthmint and Pinterest www.pinterest.com/ThePerthMint/

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