



Wednesday 15 June 2006

PERTH MINT COMMEMORATIVE MARKS HIGH POINT IN AUSTRALIA-JAPAN RELATIONS

The Perth Mint has issued a coloured commemorative coin marking the 2006 Australia-Japan Year of Exchange (YOE).

The YOE was proposed by the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, to mark the 30th anniversary of the signing of the 1976 Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the two nations. The aim of the YOE, which is endorsed by Australian Prime Minister John Howard, is to promote friendship, deeper mutual understanding and cooperation through a busy program of exchanges in many fields, including culture, arts, sport, tourism, economics, business, politics, science, education, and technology.

Perth Mint Chief Executive Officer, Ed Harbuz, said the coin, which is issued a legal tender under the Australian *Currency Act 1965*, was symbolic of the importance attached to the 2006 Australia-Japan YOE by both governments. "As a result, collectors and especially those involved in the many collaborative events in both Australia and Japan during 2006, will relish the opportunity to secure the coin," he said.

Struck by The Perth Mint from 1oz of 99.9% pure silver, the coin's reverse depicts a kangaroo and the 2006 Australia-Japan YOE logo in colour. Designed by Ivo Widjaja, the logo features the stylised and interconnected letters 'A' and 'J' in the form of a yellow ochre stipple and a red oriental brushstroke. These design elements, including the inscription 'Australia-Japan Year of Exchange' in English and Japanese, are enclosed within a circular pattern of small kangaroos. The coin's obverse depicts the Ian Rank-Broadley effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the monetary denomination.

Subject to a worldwide mintage of 80,000, a majority of the 2006 Australia-Japan YOE coins have been taken up by Japan Mint, which will include them in a special 2006 Proof Set.

Collectors wishing to acquire the coin separately will be relieved to know that The Perth Mint is offering a limited number of individual coins, each housed in a red presentation case accompanied by a numbered Certificate of Authenticity.

Individual coins are available from The Perth Mint by calling toll free on 1800 098 817, through The Perth Mint Shop located at 310 Hay Street, East Perth, leading coin dealers, or via the web at www.perthmint.com.au.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Veronica Maguire, General Manager Minted Products

Telephone (08) 9421 7252 Mobile 0412 114 208 Email veronicam@perthmint.com.au