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MEDIA RELEASE

PERTH MINT REMEMBRANCE WALL MARKS WWI CENTENARY

The Perth Mint will commemorate 100 years since the end of World War I (WWI) by installing a Centenary Poppy Wall of Remembrance at its East Perth heritage grounds in the prelude to Anzac Day.

From Monday 9 to Sunday 29 April, members of the public are encouraged to visit the Mint to place a red poppy on its memorial to help build a poignant tribute to the servicemen and servicewomen who have served Australia in war.

For the soldiers who were fortunate enough to return home from the Great War, and each campaign since in which Australia has been involved, they have found solace in the Returned and Services League (RSL).

In support of the RSL's mission to preserve the memory of military personnel and provide welfare, advocacy and community to them and their families, the Mint has purchased 4,000 silk poppies from the WA State branch which they will hand to patrons who wish to pay their respects and be part of this worthy engagement.

With its history dating back to 1899, The Perth Mint like so many other organisations was touched by conflict with ordinary men called upon to do and endure the extraordinary.

Twenty two staff members renounced their civilian duties at the Mint to defend their country during WWI and a further 18 men served in WWII. Sadly, five men lost their lives and many more were wounded, allowing only 14 to return to their jobs after the war. Inspired by their self-belief, endurance and bravery, the Mint honours them all with plaques set into its heritage building's limestone façade.

Perth Mint Chief Executive Officer Richard Hayes said that the Mint is proud of its connection to the original Anzacs, and wishes to recognise the contribution members of the Defence Force and its support services have made on behalf of all Australians.

"To observe the spirit and sacrifices of the Anzacs, the Mint will be open on 25 April from 12pm to 5pm and will offer complimentary admission to our exhibition for all active and retired military personnel," said Mr Hayes.

The Mint will also mark the WWI Centenary this month with the release of the final commemorative coins from its five-year ANZAC Spirit 100th Anniversary Coin Series.

Created in collaboration with the Australian War Memorial and launched in 2014, the commemoratives tell the story of Australia's involvement in the Great War.

Annual issues of the limited edition ANZAC Spirit 1oz and 1/2oz pure silver and 1/4oz gold coins can be purchased from The Perth Mint on Hay Street, East Perth, or online at perthmint.com.

As ANZAC Day 2018 approaches, The Perth Mint invites everyone to contemplate the sacrifices of all whom have served this country with the simple and heartfelt gesture of placing a poppy on its Centenary Poppy Wall.



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