

# Haydn Donald Powell

24 July 1939 - 20 April 2011



The Australian numismatic community has lost a much admired numismatist with the passing of Haydn Powell. This was particularly heartfelt in Western Australia, where Haydn made such a large contribution over a quarter century. Haydn had not enjoyed good health for a number of years, but he tried to remain involved even when he was having difficulty getting around.

Haydn was born in Pinjarra Hospital  
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to Donald Dausey and Jean Elinore Powell, and was descended from the Convict George Powell (No. 7821) (who was transported to Western Australia after being convicted of stealing a sheep, arriving in Fremantle on 13 April 1864 and afterwards settling in Northam). Haydn grew up in East Victoria Park, attending Kent St School and he joined the naval cadets at the age of 14, which for him became a life-long

association.

Haydn started out as an apprentice electrician, his main trade, but he did have another career as a police officer stationed in Kalgoorlie. However he returned to be an electrician quite quickly and worked for several firms in Perth and the surrounding areas.

Haydn was a collector through and through and his main interest was in numismatics, in which he concentrated on English coins and medals. Haydn enjoyed displaying his treasures and talking about them.

Haydn also enjoyed repairing old clocks. This led him to become the clock keeper of the well-known London Court

Clocks in Hay Street Mall in Perth, where he fastidiously maintained them for over forty years. He would proudly boast that they were the most accurate clocks in Perth (and they were!).

I have many happy memories of Haydn, but one of my favourite was when Haydn decided that he and I should set up a stall at a local Antiques and Collectables show held in town (I can't remember when) to promote the hobby. We were there all day, dispensing advice, but the only sales we made were to each other. Another was his regular appearance at our house when my wife (Lyn) was making his favourite lemon meringue pie.

**Highlights of Haydn's numismatic life include:**

Joined the Perth Numismatic Society	1976
PNS President	1978-1988, 1997-2005
PNS Honorary Life Member	1988
PNS Patron	2005
Recipient of the 16th Paul Simon Memorial Award	1986
Western Australian NAA Representative	1985 – 1999
Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society	1981 – 2002

Haydn was one of the founding members of the Western Australian Numismatic Study Group, which began in 1987, and he maintained his membership until he was no longer physically able to participate.

Haydn provided expert advice to The Perth Mint in the 1990s when the exhibition area was originally created. His numismatic knowledge regarding which rare coins to display from their

archives proved invaluable.

Haydn organised many coin, medal and banknote fairs in both Perth and the Western Australian country, but the word 'organised' doesn't properly encapsulate his involvement, which included making all the hall and travel arrangements, setting up the tables and lighting, ferrying infirmed members to and from the fairs, and fixing any electrical problems in the fair venues.

Indeed, Haydn carried out all of this for the 1980s.  
the PNS meetings as well!

Haydn was involved in the PNS Numismatic Society on 7th April 1989, Junior Coin Club, which I organised in member No 114, and was in continuous

**Haydn had an outstanding record of prize exhibits, including:**

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| 4 November 1977 | Fremantle Silver Jubilee Exhibit – World Crowns (donated by the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney) |
| 1978, 1979      | Karl Hawelka Perpetual Trophy for best display  |
| 4 November 1978 | Fremantle Exhibition, Best display (donated by the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney)              |
| 3 November 1979 | Fremantle Golden Anniversary – British Commonwealth   |
| 1980            | Perth Numismatic Society, Great Britain and Commonwealth display (donated by John Wheatley)           |
| 1980            | Open Exhibit (donated by Home Building Society)   |
| 1983            | South West Coin Club Patron's Trophy  |

corresponding membership for 22 years.

A medal will be instituted in Haydn's honour, donated by his son Darrell Powell, which will be used to both promote numismatic displays and help junior collectors, two activities in which Haydn had a long-standing interest.

Several Perth Numismatic Society members attended Haydn's funeral at Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park in the northern suburbs.

Haydn is survived by his wife

Mary of 20 years, his first wife Val, and children John, Darrell, Colin and Jane from his marriage with Dorothy, and Bradley and Renae from his marriage with Karen.

I was saddened to see my once very active friend go downhill with the ravages of Parkinson's disease. Haydn will be sorely missed by us all.

Walter R Bloom  
President, Perth Numismatic Society