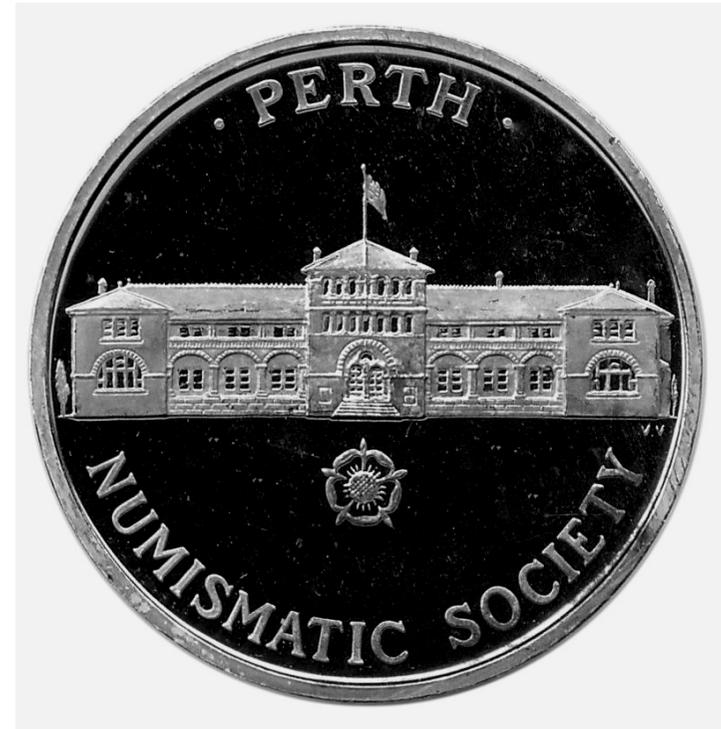


# Perth Numismatic Society



**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

# A SHORT HISTORY OF THE PERTH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

## ORGANISATIONS AND NAMES

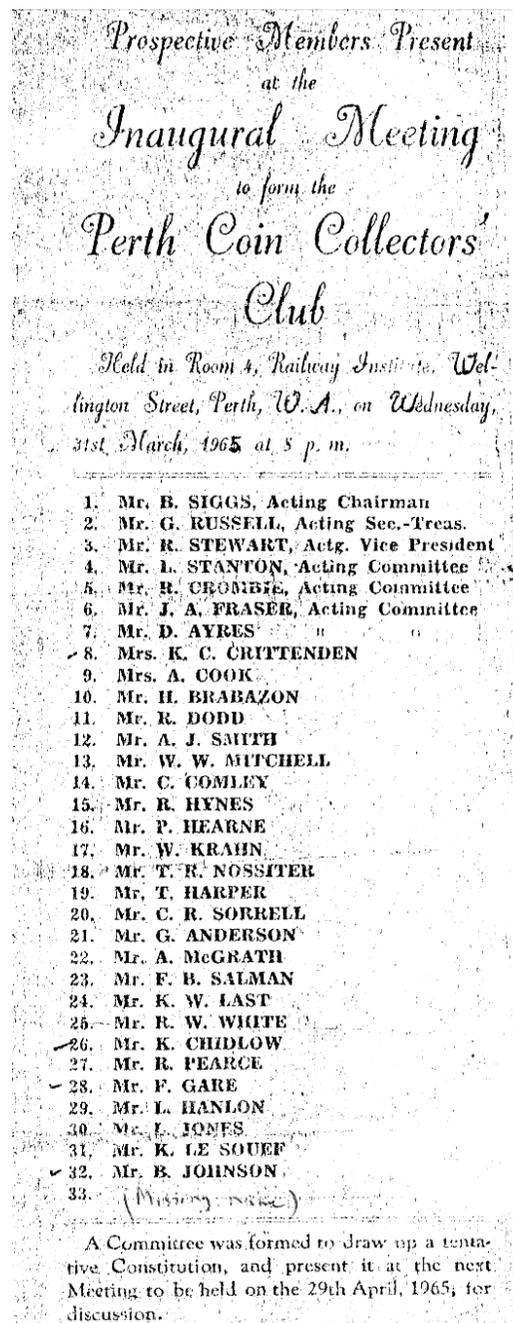
The origins of the (PNS) go back to 31<sup>st</sup> March 1965 when a group of over 30 enthusiasts convened for the inaugural meeting of what was to be called the *Perth Coin Collectors Club*. Among them was Frank Gare who remains a member of the PNS to this day.

Very soon, by August 1965, the name of the newly formed organisation was shortened to the more manageable *Perth Coin Club* (PCC) and it operated under this name for the next 9 years, until in July 1974 it officially changed its name to the *Perth Numismatic Society*, subsequently the *Perth Numismatic Society Inc* (PNS).

In 1971 abortive moves to change the name of the PCC to the *West Australian Numismatic Association* were accompanied by the formation of a separate organisation known as the *Numismatic Society of Western Australia* (NSWA). This was inaugurated in October 1971 with 36 foundation members and it apparently thrived for a few years in parallel with the PCC / PNS. But by mid 1976 attendances at NSWA meetings were in serious decline and it was struggling financially. In October 1978 only 8 members could be assembled for the AGM and the NSWA was officially wound up at a meeting in October 1979. The small balance of its funds and a few remaining assets were eventually transferred to the PNS in 1981.

In 1974, both organisations attempted to expand their geographical footprint. Records indicate that the NSWA and the PCC / PNS both set up a branch in Fremantle, but it is not entirely clear if these operated independently or merged into a single branch that received support from both organisations. The structure and operations of the Fremantle branches are not well documented, but they seem to have only lasted for a couple of years. The PNS also established a branch in Midland in 1974, but in spite of an encouraging attendance of 42 people at an initial meeting it only survived until the beginning of 1976.

Since October 1979 the PNS has been the only functioning numismatic organisation in the Perth metropolitan area.



*Attendance List for the Inaugural Meeting*

While we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary it would be churlish of us not to acknowledge the fact that the South West Coin Club is the oldest in the state having been founded several months earlier, in 1964.

## PUBLICATIONS

The PCC began to issue a monthly *Newsletter* in July 1968 as a single foolscap page, simply typed on both sides and folded. In October 1968 it was given the title *Coins News* which was changed to the more grammatically pleasing *Coin News* in April 1970. It received the much more formal title of *The Bulletin of the Perth Coin Club* for just one issue in September 1971, when it first gained a cover, before reverting to being *The Newsletter of the Perth Coin Club* in the following month.

There was obviously a good deal of disagreement within the PCC about just what its publication should be called, and it wasn't over yet, because in March 1972 it once again became *Coin News*. It continued to be produced monthly under that title until the end of the year when it seems to have been phased out, its place having been taken by a new, larger publication called the *West Australian Numismatic Journal*, the first issue of which had come out in January 1972.

Writing in that first Journal the President of the day said that "*Over the past months we have tried to expand the scope of our monthly Newsletters and now we think that they have reached the stage that justifies the issue of a more ambitious booklet*".

The first issue ran to a very respectable 36 pages with 10 articles covering a wide range of topics. It is noteworthy that one of the contributors to that first Journal was John Melville-Jones, our Vice-Patron, who first accepted that role back in 1972.

Local dealers who advertised in the first issue of the Journal were Taylor's Coins (Jim Taylor) and Stuart Numismatics.

With the change in name from the Perth Coin Club to the Perth Numismatic Society in July 1974 the name of the journal was changed to its current form of the *Perth Numismatic Journal*.

July 1968

(Editor: Nat Beric.) (Vol.1.No.1)

EDITORIAL...

Events at one of our recent coin auctions showed a disgraceful state of affairs when a Dealer's stock of current Coin Catalogues were cleared at half price or less. Conversation with the Dealer concerned showed a lamentable lack of interest in Catalogues, or anything appertaining to the furtherance of coin knowledge., yet the same coin collectors who can't be bothered doing research on a coin, are loudest in their condemnation of any Dealer who sells them that coin, either because they think the price is too high or because there were three different mints coining that year, and they received the one of the least value. How many, in the boom years of Australian coins confined their knowledge to a listing in the local newspapers, with eyes only for the 1930 Penny and the fond hope that every Penny would be worth as much on Decimal Day. Remember..A catalogue is only the price of one good coin...but the knowledge gained is priceless.

### General Meeting.

Election of Officers.....  
At the last Perth Coin Club General Meeting the following were elected to office..  
President.. Vice President..  
Secretary.. Treasurer.....  
Committee..

### BRITISH COINS.

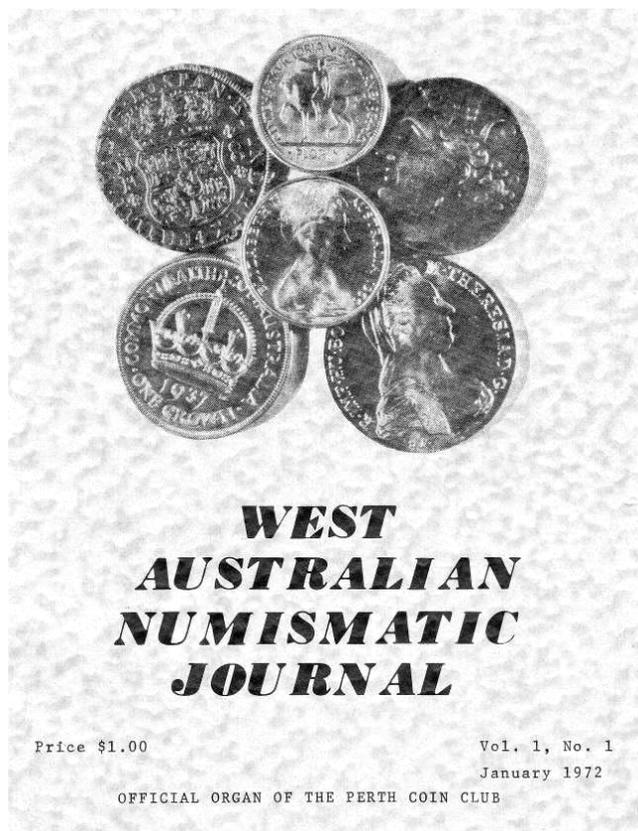
Whilst Australian coins have now become static with the exception of the better grade pieces which are creeping up in price.1932 2/- etc., there is a great upsurge in British coins since Decimal Date 1971 was announced. Some British Decimal New Pence are already in circulation, notably the 5&10 New Pence, these fit existing vending machine mechanisms. The glamour coin amongst the commoner British copper coins is of course, the 1951

it's size, but was seized upon by shifty characters who melted it down for it's above value copper content, and so it was soon withdrawn from circulation. Present English Cat. Price. 2d... V.G. (£1) \$2. to E.F. £12. F.U... V.G. 5/- to E.F. £9. WORLD COIN NEWS....

New Zealand is to issue One Dollar and 50cent coins in 1969 to honour Captain Cook's N.Z. Voyage in 1769. Canada.. The 25cent 1968 coin will be the last in silver, all future pieces will be nickel. Seaby's of London feature the following coins in their latest price list :: Australia Royal Visit 2/- Unc. 70/-, Ceylon. 1903 E.F. 80/-, Hong Kong 1890H. rare sEF/EF. 130/-, India 1/2 Rupee 1899 EF 30/-, Jamaica 1d. Proof. listed as RRR FDC £20. New Guinea 1935 1/- Unc. 30/-, 1936 Unc. 40/-, New Zeal. 1949 Crown RRR FDC £125. 1952 6d. & 1/- both at £22. FDC Another dealer, in Newcastle (Eng).. quotes Australian 2/- 1912 F. 10/-, 2/- 1913 F. 25/-, 1927 Canb. VF 12/6, EF 25/-, Un. 40/-, 1946 2/- VF 4/-, 1952 VF 5/- and has Royal Visit Unc. @30/- DECIMAL DATES:- Fiji 13th Jan 1969, Jamaica - Sept 1969 U.K. - Sept 1971. BITS & PIECES....

The most common of ancient coins is that of Alexander the Great (336 - 323 B.C.) enormous numbers were minted in his lifetime and over 150 years after his death coins bearing his name were still being struck. The earliest British coins were struck in 150 B.C. These were gold coins and imitations of Gaulish ones, they were not inscribed and circulated mainly in South-East Britain. The most notorious forger of ancient coins was Karl Becker who operated in Frankfurt in 1820. His only mistake was that his coins had a better finish than the originals. Pure gold is usually described as 24carat but gold coins are normally 22carat. Cupro-Nickel Coins are 25% Nickel 75% Copper. The recent "warning" by Mr. Brand to people wishing to dive for treasure will not affect our club members,

*Part of the First PCC Newsletter, July 1968*



*Cover of the First Journal, January 1972*

Being a more substantial publication, the journal was no longer issued monthly. Since 1974 the number of issues per year seems to have generally ranged from about 3 to 6.

Starting in February 1972, the NSWA also began to produce a newsletter under the title *Numisnews*, which seems to have been published monthly or bi-monthly through to June 1977. The first issue of *Numisnews* was supported by the following dealers: Thomas' Coins Ltd (Nedlands), Boston-Georgensen – Watchmakers & Jewellers (Murray St), Stuart Numismatics (Maylands), Berk's Coins (Applecross), Centenary Coins and Stamps (Victoria Park) and Taylor's Coins (W.A.) (Victoria Park).

## **MEDALS / MEDALLIONS / BADGES**

Both the PCC / PNS and the NSWA issued medallions at various points in their histories, the most recent of course being our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary medallion, which was produced only this month.

## **PERTH COIN CLUB**

### **Membership Badges**

Two versions of a PCC membership badge exist. At least some of these must have been produced in 1965, very early in the life of the organisation, since one version carries the short-lived name *Perth Coin Collectors Club*. They were produced by Sheridan's.



### **Perth Concert Hall Medallion**

The PCC also produced a commemorative medallion for the opening of the Perth Concert Hall in 1973.

The initial plan was to produce 150 bronze, 150 "silver" and 200 "gold". Ultimately a total of 745 "bronze, silver and gold dipped" were struck (no breakdown recorded). Another 80 were struck in 0.925 silver. They were produced by the Perth Mint.



## PERTH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medallion

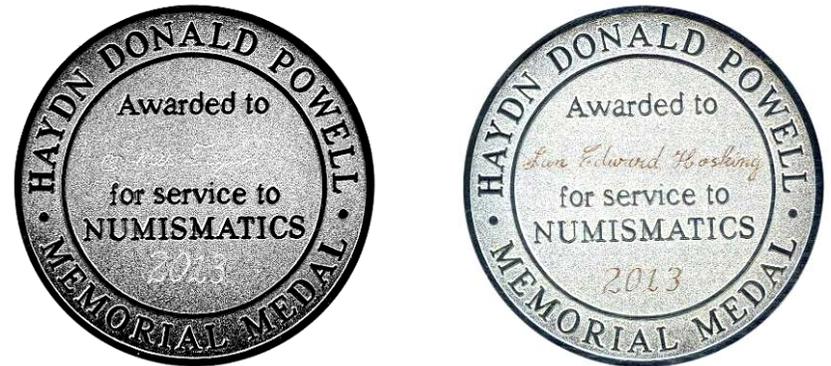
For its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1990 the PNS commissioned the impressive 1 troy ounce silver medallion that appears on our Journal cover. This was struck by the Perth Mint, with a mintage of 100.



### Haydn Donald Powell Memorial Medal

Since 2103 this medal has been awarded by the PNS for services to numismatics. It comes in two finishes, antique gold and antique silver for the two levels of the award. In the first year the awards were to:

James Taylor (Gold)  
Jan Hosking (Silver)



In 2014 they went to:

Frank Marshall Gare (Gold)  
Rowley Edward Butters (Gold)

The obverse is shared with that of the following PNS medal. The reverse die and striking of the Haydn Donald Powell Memorial Medals were funded by Darrell Powell. They were struck by the Adelaide Mint.

### PNS Medal

In 2013 the Adelaide mint also struck 50 copper PNS medallions for general usage.



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medallion

Our new 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary medallion was cast in pewter by Buckingham Pewter, with a mintage of 200.



## NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### Inaugural Exhibition Medallion

The NSW issued a medallion for their inaugural coin exhibition.



The obverse date of 1971 refers to the foundation date of the NSW. Records confirm that it was not issued until August 1972.

The original plan was for a maximum of 700 bronze, silvered and gilded medallions to be produced by Sheridan's. Some additional sterling silver and gold versions were also planned if sufficient demand existed.

A sterling silver version was eventually produced in limited numbers but the gold medal was abandoned.

It is unclear how many of these medallions were ultimately struck.

Records suggest that the reverse die of their inaugural medallion may have been auctioned at a 1972 NSW Christmas function.

### Exhibitor Medallions

In April 1973, it was reported that 20 additional medallions had been struck for the NSW by Sheridan's "with the society medallion obverse and a laurel wreath reverse". These were to be presented to exhibitors at a coming exhibition. The metal used was not recorded.

Another batch with a laurel wreath design was struck in sterling silver in 1974; the number produced on this occasion was not recorded.



## EVENTS

Coin exhibitions and fairs were always an important part of the activities of the PCC / PNS (and of the NSW). Many of them were held in large commercial venues like shopping centre complexes or the State headquarters of major banks. Others used venues like the Perth Town Hall and some were staged as far away as Bunbury. They often received financial support from sponsoring companies and business organisations.

These tended to be annual events and many of them were apparently highly successful. As an example, a one day PCC coin exhibition held in the Perth Town Hall in 1969 was opened by the Lord Mayor and was reported to have attracted over 900 people.

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# MONEY!

*You TRY to \$ave  
We DO \$ave*

**PERTH COIN CLUB**

*Presents*

**RARE - VALUABLE - INTERESTING**

## COIN EXHIBITION

— ✕ —  
**at the Perth Town Hall  
on Sat. 31st May, 1969  
10 a.m. - 10 p.m.**

— ✕ —  
*But you can  
also \$ave money  
when you FLY...*



**ANSETT**  
AIRLINES OF AUSTRALIA

Economy Excursion Fares TO ADELAIDE  
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This was surpassed in the following year when attendance in a single day was put at 1,200!

Those numbers certainly put our recent fairs into the shade. I wonder if the difference reflects the greater effort that would have gone into one big annual event or a general decline in the level of public interest in coin collecting? It was certainly a different world for numismatics in the 1970s, with all the fervour of the changeover to decimal currency still going strong.

In 1979 a committee formed from members of both the PNS and the NSW and chaired by the immediate past President of the PNS (Karl Hawelka), organised one of the most important numismatic events in the state's history. This was the WA 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Numismatic Convention that was held over 3 days in May 1979. It was opened by the state Governor and involved displays, dealing, a major auction, a dinner and a tour of the Perth mint.



*Show Ribbon from the WA 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Numismatic Convention*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For this special occasion it seemed appropriate to dig into our surviving archives and put together this brief historical outline. I apologise for any oversights or errors.

Thanks to Walter Bloom for access to archival material and for the badge and medallion images. Many of these images feature on the WANumismatica website (if you haven't been there you should take a look).

John McDonald  
March 2015

**PERTH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY Inc**

Founded 1965

**PATRON**

Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO  
Governor of Western Australia

**VICE-PATRON**

Dr John Melville-Jones

**HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS**

Frank Gare	1977
Derek Thorpe	1990
John Wheatley	2004
Walter Bloom	2013

**PAST PRESIDENTS**

Brian Siggs †	1965-1968
Edward Rintoul †	1968-1969
Edward Gibbs †	1969-1970
Clive Stronach †	1970-1971
Karl Hawelka †	1971-1978
Haydn Powell †	1978-1988
Dr Walter Bloom	1988-1991
Jiri Just †	1991-1994
Colin Meikle	1994-1997
Haydn Powell †	1997-2005
Dr Walter Bloom	2005-

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2014-2015**

PRESIDENT	Dr Walter Bloom
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT	Ben Selentin
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT	Jim Hidden
TREASURER	Alan Peel
SECRETARY	Dr Walter Bloom (acting)
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Sandra Vowles
MINUTES SECRETARY	Joe Brizzi
FELLOWSHIP OFFICER	Jim Selby
ORDINARY MEMBERS	Miles Goldingham Robin Hughes John McDonald Syd Pateman
JOURNAL EDITOR	John McDonald
JOURNAL SUB-EDITOR	Mike Beech-Jones