

Australian Coins.




A coin has 2 sides, which we generally call “Heads” and “Tails”. The correct name for the “Heads” side is the “Obverse”, and is the side with the picture of the Queen. The Obverse side also has the year that the coin was made stamped on it.

The “Tails” side is called the “Reverse”, and generally has a picture of a native animal on it. The \$2 coin is the only standard coin with 2 “heads”, but the side with the Queen is still called the Obverse and the side with the aboriginal man is still called the Reverse. There are also a large number of special commemorative coins that feature other designs on the Reverse side. In 2008 a special \$1 coin was released to commemorate the 100th year of Scouting in Australia. You have each been given one of these to start your collection.

Obverse

Over the years the picture of the Queen has changed slightly. There are now 3 versions of the Obverse side of Australian coins.

See if you can collect one each of these coins. They can be any value, but it is probably easiest to see the differences if you collect 20c or 50c coins. What year was each of your coins made?

Example	Attach your coin here	Write the year here
		
		
		

Note: There is actually a fourth version of the Obverse side, but it was only ever used on one particular 50c coin, release in 2000. I have never seen one, but maybe you can find one?



1966

See if you can find any coin from the year 1966. Attach it here.

What is so special about 1966?

Talk to an older person that you know and ask them what they remember about 1966 with regard to coins and money in general.



Standard Reverse

Originally, Australia had 6 coins. These were the 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, and 50c coins. The Government stopped making new 1c and 2c coins in 1990, and removed them from general circulation in 1992. Some people still have a few of the old coins floating around. See if you can find one of each.

The first 50c coins were round and only slightly larger than a 20c coin. A lot of people complained that they kept mixing up the 2 coins and so the government changed to the current shape of the 50c coin. The other reason the Government needed to change the 50c coin was that the original version was made from Silver, and the price of Silver increased so that it actually cost the Government more than 50c to make each 50c coin. By the way, the shape of the 50c coin is called a dodecagon (pronounced doe–dec–a–gon).

The \$1 coin was first introduced in 1984 and the \$2 coin followed in 1988. Before this, we used \$1 and \$2 notes rather than coins. The problem with these low value notes is that they tend to get damaged too easily, and it was costing the government too much money to keep printing new money! The coins last much better.

See if you can find one of each type of coin with the standard image on the Reverse side. What is pictured on each coin? See if you can get at least one coin that was made the year you were born.

Example	Attach your coin here	What is pictured on this coin
	NOTE: You don't have to get one of these, but if you know someone who has keep a few, it would be interesting to add it to your collection.	
	NOTE: You don't have to get one of these, but if you know someone who has keep a few, it would be interesting to add it to your collection.	

Example	Attach your coin here	What is pictured on this coin
		
		
		
		
		
		

Note: Although the image is basically the same, the \$2 coins from 1988 and 1989 are **very slightly** different to the ones made since 1990. Can you find one of each? Can you find the difference?















Commemorative Coins

There has never been a commemorative 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c or \$2 coin. But there are lots of different 20c, 50c and \$1 coins that you can find. Some are very common, and others are quite rare. See how many of the following you can find in general circulation. For any that you can find, write down the year it was released and what it was celebrating. I certainly don't expect you to collect all of them, but see how many you can find just in your normal change over the next few weeks.

20c



Example	Year / Celebrating?	Example	Year / Celebrating?
			
			
			
			
			
			
			

50c

Example	Year / Celebrating?	Example	Year / Celebrating?
			
			
			
			
			
	<p>This is the coin with the one-off picture of the queen on the Obverse side.</p>		
			

Example	Year / Celebrating?	Example	Year / Celebrating?
			
			
			
			
			
			

\$1

Example	Year / Celebrating?	Example	Year / Celebrating?
			

Example	Year / Celebrating?	Example	Year / Celebrating?
			
			
			
			
			
			

Uncirculated Coins



These are special coins released by the mint (the people who make all our notes and coins) and are specifically for collectors. They cost much more than their normal value, and as such you should never remove one of these coins from its protective packet. For example, along with the \$1 coin you were given, there was also a Scouting commemorative 50c coin that was never released to general circulation. To buy one costs \$4.95, but if you take it out of its packet and spend it at the shops, you will only get 50c.