

Armistice Day coin



Background

In October 2018, the Bank is issuing a commemorative circulating coin to mark the 100th anniversary of the signing of the WW1 Armistice.

This coin follows the Anzac coin minted in 2015 to mark the centenary of New Zealand's efforts in WW1 and to support New Zealand's WW100 initiatives and events.

The ANZAC coin was very popular. It is rare to see one in circulation since the release in 2015.

About the coin

The Armistice Day Coin is a 50 cent coloured commemorative circulating coin, and is legal tender for 50 cents.

The size and thickness of the coin is the same as the standard 50 cent coin. The only change to the coin is on the reverse which features the official RSA's red poppy in the middle, surrounded by a free formed remembrance wreath that has incorporated the silver fern and koru as strong New Zealand elements.

As with all the Bank's coin designs, this coin has been approved by Her Majesty the Queen.

Getting a coin

The majority of the coins (approximately 1.6 million) will be released into circulation from 1 October. The coins will be distributed to New Zealand retailers throughout the country.

To maximise the chance of receiving a coin, and to be fair to everyone, the coins will be divided between regions based on population. You may just see one in your change.

The public and groups with a vested interest will be able to order a limited number of coins through the NZ Post website in the second half of the year. See their website [insert hyperlink] for more information.

About Armistice Day

Armistice Day (also sometimes referred to as Remembrance Day) marks the anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended WW1. It commemorates the sacrifice of those who died serving New Zealand in this and all wars and armed conflict.

The Great War of 1914 to 1918 was one of the most devastating events in human history. New Zealand, with a population of 1.1 million in 1914, sent 100,000 men and women abroad. 16,700 died and over 40,000 were wounded.

On Armistice Day 1918, New Zealand had 58,129 troops in the field, while an additional 10,000 were training in New Zealand.

The signing of the Armistice is observed annually in New Zealand at 11am on 11 November (the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month). This was when the allies and Germany signed the armistice in Compiègne, France.

Two minutes silence is observed in memory of those New Zealanders who died while serving our country.

2018 marks 100 years since the signing of the Armistice. The Bank is issuing this Armistice Day coin to commemorate the history, service, and sacrifice made by service personnel and their families to bring peace to New Zealand and the world.

For more information about New Zealand's involvement in WW1, visit <http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/news/events/remembrance-day/default.htm>

The design

The Armistice Day coin design features the official RSA's red poppy in the middle, surrounded by a free formed remembrance wreath that has incorporated the silver fern and koru as strong New Zealand elements.

The printed silver ferns on the wreath represent the past, present, and future and the three armed forces in New Zealand. The engraved koru pattern represents new beginnings, and the engraved silver fern reflects New Zealand's national identity.

A portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II appears on the obverse side of the coin.

The coins are minted in Canada at Royal Canadian Mint with our other lower denomination coins. The design has been approved by the Reserve Bank and Her Majesty the Queen.

About the artist

NZ Post commissioned New Zealand artist Dave Burke to design the coin as part of its wider five-year WW100 commemorative stamp and non-circulating coin programme. Dave also designed the 2015 circulating Anzac coin.

Dave Burke is a graduate of the Otago School of Fine Art and has more than 20 years' experience working in the field of art, design and advertising. He has previously designed commemorative coins for New Zealand Post.