



## NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

### NAAC2015 ABSTRACTS

#### PLENARY TALKS

##### **Commander Geoffrey Spicer-Simson, DSO and the Lake Tanganyika Expedition 1915-16; the true story behind the film ' The African Queen '**

*Christopher Hill*

Commander Geoffrey Basil Spicer-Simson DSO lead the Naval Africa Expedition in 1915/16 to Lake Tanganyika. He was born in Tasmania and had an interesting numismatic connection; his father was a dealer in gold sovereigns in India, and one of his brothers, Theodore Spicer-Simpson, was a well-known medallion portrait artist.

##### **East African coins and the Indian Ocean, and the mystery of how medieval Swahili coins ended up on the Wessel Islands**

*John Perkins*

The coins of the Swahili Coast have been a very present reminder of the former greatness of the towns on a stretch of the East African coast which roughly runs from Southern Somalia all the way to Tanzania's border with Mozambique. Their precise dating (c. 1100s-1400s), as well as their purpose is still open for discussion, but they were most likely a local currency used in everyday life. Interestingly, and probably for that very reason, they have hardly been found outside of the area they were minted in. Only one coin has been found respectively in Great Zimbabwe and Oman. Even their distribution on the Swahili Coast is very limited with the probability of non-monetary currencies being used alongside them. How then is it that the biggest find of Swahili Coast coins outside of East Africa is claimed to come from Marchinbar Island, one of the Australian Wessel Islands? Here 5 coins were reportedly found by Norman Isenberg along with four Dutch coins of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. These coins became the subject of a recent expedition to Marchinbar, which unfortunately could not shed any further light on the find. This paper will give an overview over the history and coinage of the Swahili Coast, discuss their role both in the light of their East African context and the Indian Ocean trade. The question of the Marchinbar Island coins has to be seen in the light of this background along with the evidence surrounding the circumstances of the find.

##### **'Gee, this medal belongs to me': The Te Pahi Medal and its Repatriation**

*Mark Stocker*

The sudden reappearance and subsequent sale by Sotheby's Australia of the Te Pahi Medal, presented by the Governor of New South Wales to a visiting Maori chief in 1806, was probably the most remarkable Australasian numismatic episode of 2014. While I will summarise the medal's appearance and inscription, in this paper I will focus more on questions of provenance and what I have called 'legal medalling', the fascinating exchange of

correspondence between lawyers representing Sotheby's and those representing the Ngapuhi iwi (tribe) who sought postponement of the sale. Central to this is the complex global issue of cultural property and its retention or restitution which lies at the heart of this discussion. The Te Pahi Medal is part of a spectrum that includes the Parthenon Marbles, Benin bronzes and Nazi confiscated art. Here the quotation in the title, made by Gary Singer, a board member of Sotheby's Australia, is highly relevant. Who *did* the medal belong to? What were the likely circumstances behind its disappearance and reappearance? How might Ngapuhi's proposed Supreme Court injunction have stood up, had it been pursued as at one point seemed likely? Did concerns about the medal's status (and the impact of protesters) impede the bidding? Also relevant in this case study is Australia's Protection of Movable Cultural Property Act (1986). The outcome may be one for Aotearoa New Zealand to celebrate, but to leave it at that ignores the deeper and, I believe, more interesting questions raised here.

### **The Bank of Adelaide 1865-1979**

*John Wheatley*

Founded in 1865, the Bank of Adelaide's original shareholders read like a who's who of South Australia's leading citizens and men of commerce. Their names include; John Martin (described as "drapers' assistant"), Penfold, the first Thomas Playford, Gosse, Hay, Elder, Miller Anderson, the chemist Francis Faulding, Premier Sir Henry Ayers, merchant Robert Barr Smith and Adam Lindsay Gordon who "staged" his shares for a profit.

The Bank of Adelaide was associated with almost all of the important early South Australian enterprises. Its first branch, opened in January 1866, was at the booming copper town of Kapunda. It had branches at Goolwa, the Murray port serviced by 36 paddle steamers, at Port Elliot, and at the bustling town of Gawler.

The Bank of Adelaide endured many hard times *e.g.* the disasters of the 1880s when the Commercial Bank of South Australia collapsed, the property crash of the 1890s and the depression of the 1930s.

The Bank prospered in the 1950s aided by good years in the rural community. Although much smaller than the major Australian trading banks, the Bank of Adelaide, like its Western Australian counterpart, the Western Australia Bank, was the strongest bank in its State. It had strong links with the pastoral and farming industries and close links with leading South Australian companies such as Elder Smith, John Martin, Adelaide Steamship and Advertiser Newspapers. It was the bank of Adelaide's establishment.

During the 1960s the Bank of Adelaide acquired 40% of Finance Corporation of Australia Ltd. In 1968 ANZ Bank merged with the ES&A Bank triggering a wave of merger proposals between the major banks. The Bank of Adelaide bid for all shares in FCA. Initially FCA prospered but was in trouble in the mid 1970s, as was the Bank of Adelaide. In November 1979 the Bank of Adelaide merged with ANZ Bank.

During its history the Bank of Adelaide issued three types of banknotes described by Mick Vort-Ronald in his book *Banks of Issue in Australia* as follows:

- (a) Type One Domicile Adelaide  
Printed by Sands & McDougall Melbourne Victoria.  
Size approx. 180mmx100mm  
Four denominations were issued, one pound, five pounds, ten pounds and twenty pounds.  
The notes were issued between 1865 and 1878.

- (b) Type Two Domicile Adelaide  
Printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co London  
Size approx. 200mm x 120mm  
Five denominations were issued one pound, five pounds, ten pounds, twenty pounds and fifty pounds.  
The notes were issued between 1870 and 1910.
  
- (c) Type Three Domicile Adelaide  
Printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co London  
Size approx. 163mm x 120mm  
One denomination issued of one pound  
Issued between 1892 and 1910

In this talk we give an overview of the Bank of Adelaide during these 124 years.

## **SESSION TALKS**

### **World War I Appeal medals of Western Australia**

*Walter R Bloom\* and John McDonald*

Appeal medals were produced in Western Australia over the first four years of World War I in support of various worthy causes, including the Red Cross, Children's Hospital, returned injured soldiers and the widows of those who fought for Australia, the latter through the Ugly Men's Voluntary Workers Association of Western Australia. Very little has been known about these medals, not even their manufacturer, but an analysis of the die characteristics together with an examination of newspapers of the day and other contemporary records indicate that they were all struck by Cumpston's City Electric Engraving Works, at the time located in Hay Street, Perth. We outline the steps taken to reach this conclusion.

### **The Melbourne City Council numismatic collection**

*Darren Burgess*

Since it was established in 1842 the City of Melbourne Council has amassed a diverse and fascinating collection of numismatic items. These include awards to the council at events such as the Adelaide Jubilee International Exhibition in 1887 through to the Parks & Gardens Department's historic win of a prize medal from the British National Chrysanthemum Society in 1951; examples of dies and medallions issued by the city for such occasions as anniversaries, coronations and royal jubilees; and gifts from local societies and individuals as well as visiting foreign dignitaries and overseas local governments. This is a brief look at some of the more interesting numismatic items within the collection.

### **The Tail-Waggers' Club**

*Mike Carter*

Many collectors collect dog tags or licence tags. These are normally issued by a local authority and are part of the general approach to dog control and owner responsibility

undertaken by such authorities. There are many impressive and collectable dog licence tags especially including those from Western Australia and South Australia. However an alternative approach to regulatory control was taken by a Captain Horace Hobbs, who in 1928 founded the Tail-Waggers' Club in England. Captain Hobbs believed strongly in ownership responsibility and set up a club to encourage this.

Dogs that became members of The Tail-Waggers' Club received a special collar medallion or membership badge engraved with the Club's logo and the motto 'I help my pals' as well as a membership number. If lost, a contact phone number was provided and the membership number would enable the organisation to contact the dog's owner. In addition a newsletter and other educational means were used to promote dog and pet welfare. The organisation behind the Tail-Waggers' Club was 'The World League for Dog Welfare' which incorporated 'the National Dog Week Council'. Described as an international organisation for promotion of dog welfare through education and philanthropic activity, its international headquarters were in London.

The club flourished in the early 1930's but was significantly impacted during the World War II years. In 1960 the Spiller Petfood Company purchased the club name and created a trust in 1972 based on legacies donated to the club. This trust still exists in England. The founder of the Tail-Waggers' Club, Captain Hobbs died in London in 1935 at the age of 39.

The club's concept spread to other countries including New Zealand and Australia and there was significant support in America. In England membership exceeded a million while in Australia there were at least 80,000 members in Melbourne before the RSPCA took over the role of the club.

As mentioned above the club was active in many countries and each issued their own medals and membership certificates. The Australian clubs issued badges specifically for Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, and Ballarat. It is possible that badges for other centres such as Perth, Hobart, Launceston, and Geelong exist but have yet to surface. It appears to be unlikely that Brisbane issued badges.

This presentation follows the evolution of the club and its English, Australian and other membership badges from the early beginnings through to its finalisation in the 1970's.

### **Using chemical analysis to determine the source(s) of Archaic Athenian coins**

*Gil Davis*

This talk presents some early results from research being conducted at Macquarie University analysing the composition of early Athenian coins. The focus here is on archaic Athenian tetradrachms.

### **Medals of the University of Adelaide**

*Peter Fleig*

The University of Adelaide was established in 1874, but it was only after the passing of several decades that medals were recorded as having been presented as awards for academic excellence. The first medal was awarded for achievement in 1892, and subsequent medals were presented for 1904 and later. In all, there have been over twenty different medals awarded by various faculties since the end of the nineteenth century.

This presentation focuses on some of the early medals awarded by the University, supported by photographic images of both sides of each medal discussed. A biographical summary of the person depicted on the medal is given, details about any bequests or gifts and the purpose and stipulations of the award are explained, information on the designer and manufacturer is discussed as well as related costs to the particular faculty, and a numismatic description and technical information including metal, size and weight are given.

The two main sources of information on the University's medals are also identified and explained.

### **Modern rarities: The 2007 New Zealand Numismatic Societies' promotion**

*David Galt*

On 8 August 2006, a New Zealand 2004 5 cent piece sold for \$360 on TradeMe, New Zealand's dominant online trading platform. The high price caught the public's imagination.

By January 2007, the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand (RNSNZ) was able to clarify that just 48,000 5 cent pieces and 28,000 2005 10 cent pieces had been released into circulation. But few were to be found. It gradually emerged that many had been withdrawn but some had made their way into the hands of wholesale dealers. Major releases were unlikely because these were the old, large coins prior to the issue of smaller replacement coins during 2006.

The RNSNZ spotted the opportunity to work with New Zealand Post to make examples of the two coins available free to any member of one of New Zealand's six numismatic societies that might want them – and encourage a surge in membership of societies, just as had been done 40 years earlier when the Finance Minister, Robert Muldoon, agreed to make examples of withdrawn Bahamas Mule coins available.

Members of the Royal Numismatic Society organising committee put in months of effort into the promotion, grappling with how to reconcile non-commercial and commercial numismatic interests.

The paper provides the story of the promotion and sifts the evidence of what happened to the coins in the promotion subsequently.

### **Searching your pocket change in Australia**

*Kathryn Harris*

Whenever the authors of this article get a handful of small change after making a purchase you'll see us examine each coin in turn. You'll probably notice the odd looks we get from storekeepers and fellow customers who, no doubt, think we are penny pinching and checking our change for correctness. But of course, we're not. We're examining each coin to see if it's of any interest numismatically, or even financially. And is it worthwhile? Absolutely! The authors have found coins worth many multiples of face value just by checking our change carefully, and we know of others who have found coins worth hundreds of dollars, and they've paid no more for them than the value on the coin itself! In this article we will look at coins that the new and experienced collector can look for in their change, errors, varieties, and coins that simply shouldn't be found in circulation. It can be a great and inexpensive way for

new collectors to get into the hobby, and an interesting way for experienced collectors to stay involved.

## **Siege and Emergency Money during the Stuart Dynasty**

*Paul Jones*

After Elizabeth I's death, James VI of Scotland was invited to become James I of England and Scotland and he was succeeded by Charles I. Alarmed by the arbitrary exercise of Charles I's power, the House of Commons submitted to the king the Petition of Right, demanding the restoration of their liberties.

The English Civil War that started in 1642 was three separate conflicts and ended in the trial and execution of Charles I in 1649. After the restoration of the monarchy under Charles II, and the subsequent Glorious Revolution of 1688, the supremacy of Parliament was settled and all future English Sovereigns were restricted to the role of constitutional monarchs with limited executive authority. This period of history has shaped the future of governments around the world.

Charles I employed Nicholas Briot to introduce the new milling technology in making coins, but the outbreak of the English Civil War ended his machine coinage and it was during the war where emergency and siege coins were produced in a hurry to support the besieged town's economy.

It was during this time of great technological change the following emergency money was issued to keep the economies of towns going and to pay for soldiers to defend the towns as well as those in the field. In my talk to the NAA Conference I will touch on the following - Kilkenny Money, Ormond Money, Carlisle Money, Scarborough Money, Newark Money, Pontefract Money, Gun Money and Limerick Besieged Money.

It was during the third and final siege at Newark in 1645/6, that the famous siege coinage was struck which paid the soldiers and kept the town's economy going. Newark formed part of King Charles' surrender to the Parliamentary Forces.

After the restoration of Charles II, in 1662, Peter Blondeau was employed to establish a permanent mint which produced machine made coinage. This process produced coins that have a contemporary look to them with a protected lettered edge to protect against clipping.

Newark Shilling (Paul S Jones Collection)

*Obverse:*

Large central crown, initials CR either side of the crown and denomination (12 pence or shilling) in Roman numerals below. The reference to Charles I shows that the city was held by royalists in the English civil war.

*Reverse:*

NEWARK in middle, with OBS above, and date below

NOTE: OBS is short for the latin word *obsessum* or `besieged`. Newark is short for Newark-on-Trent

## **Fourth century civic coins in the Hansen collection and the great persecution**

*Lyn Kidson*

Sometime in the early fourth century a series of coins were minted by Alexandria, Antioch and Nicomedia. These coins are quite remarkable. The last civic coinage (coins minted by a city for its own use) was minted in Asia in AD 275. Even odder is the absence of the emperor's head on them. Rather they feature the city gods and goddess or the city *tyche* on their reverse and obverse sides. Johan van Heesch dates the coins to AD 312. In this year Caesar Maximinus Daza, one of the tetrarchy, stepped up his persecution of the Christians after representations from Nicomedia and Antioch. This paper will consider the coins minted in Antioch in the Hansen collection and the light they can shed on the relationship between the emperor, the cities and their joint concern to bolster the imperial ideology at the time of the great persecution.

## **The numismatist's choice**

*Peter Lane*

The Art Gallery of South Australia's numismatic collection was established over 150 years ago and has some 30,000 specimens. The present honorary numismatist has selected six items that appeal to him. The specimens are not necessarily the most valuable or the most important pieces, they have been selected mainly for the story of how and why they have come into the collection. The pieces discussed are: a Crimea war medal group, a WWI pair, a gambling chit, an ancient Roman coin, an Adelaide Assay Office lead pull and an Adelaide exhibition medal.

## **A brief history of the Boer War and some South Australian connections**

*Gerry McGinley*

This presentation outlines the South African War at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and focuses on some South Australians who were directly involved in the conflict and its aftermath. While there is a South African War Memorial outside Government House, many of the personal stories are now long forgotten. They will be brought back to life at this talk with the support of war medals and other memorabilia.

## **Medieval German Coins**

*David Mee*

This paper is a brief contextual survey of German numismatics in the middle ages, before the development of the thaler and the Lutheran Reformation. The paper is intended to salute the enormous contribution made to the state of South Australia by peoples of German descent who migrated here, beginning in the 1830s at a time of religious repression in Brandenburg and the Kingdom of Prussia. More came later when it was realised that a better life could be had in Australia. Some brought with them the family collection of German coins, and some of these ended up in the Museum of South Australia. It has been said that collecting German coins is the ultimate challenge of all numismatics, because firstly of the number of coin issuers, ranging from Emperors, Kings, Feudal lords, Clergy and Free Imperial Cities, secondly because of the period involved and the different types and styles, and thirdly because of the complexity of the numismatic literature, where almost every town, abbey, state and territory has its own author, catalogue and reference books, many of which are very difficult

to obtain. However the rewards of collecting, the author believes, outweigh this complexity. This paper will make some attempt to put this in a perspective through time and space, using coin images from the author's own collection, from the time of the Franks in the 9<sup>th</sup> century to the high Gothic at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Medal making in Australia**

*Anna Meszaros*

I became interested in sculpture, particularly in medals, through spending a lot of time in the studio of my uncle (Michael Meszaros), previously belonging to my grandfather (Andor Meszaros), surrounded by both men's work.

Studying how medals are made is a great way to begin a career in sculpture. The parameters of the small size, the circular shape and the relief height encourage one to really concentrate and hone one's thinking. Rules can sometimes give us great freedom and a place to start. After concentrating on refining these skills and thought processes, I then began to create works that tried to push the boundaries of what a medal is and how it is defined. How far can one go before it is not really a medal any more, but really just a small sculpture?

I will talk about how both artists, Michael and Andor, have influenced my thought processes and style. Both artists have much in common, but they also vary greatly. I will talk about what I have chosen to retain of these influences and also how I have evolved to become an artist in my own right with my own style and ideas.

I will talk about specific works and the work I have done for the Mint, how I wish to continue in the future, and also how medals have influenced my other sculpture.

### **A 'Missionary' Collection of Chinese coins**

*David Rampling*

It is seldom that chance and serendipity join forces to gratify the numismatist's appetite for coins. These circumstances afforded the author the opportunity of acquiring an interesting selection of Chinese coins first gathered by an Australian missionary working for the China Inland Mission in the early years of the last century. The assemblage of coins and related artefacts is described, along with what is known of their original procurement and subsequent history. More detailed commentary is given to some items that are unusual or accompanied by contemporary annotations. The popular portrayal of missionaries as naïve collectors is challenged.

### **eLearning and ACANS: Expanding the Audience for Ancient Numismatics**

*John Shannahan*

In 2015 the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies (ACANS) received funding from Macquarie University's Learning and Teaching Centre to expand its role in the curriculum. This paper will discuss the project's aims, methods, and preliminary results. In addition, it will explore the possibilities offered by the collection of ACANS and other on-line collections for improving the student experience.

Coins are an underutilised resource in tertiary and secondary education. Now that many collections are online, however, researchers and students have a global resource on which to draw. Therefore, when the Learning and Teaching Centre sought ways to address the changing patterns of student engagement and attendance, ACANS took the opportunity to make use of numismatics' growing digital presence. One of the key aspects of this paper will be how coins may reduce the "transactional distance" felt when distance/online learners try to engage with archaeological evidence. This refers to the fact that, when it comes to physical objects, distance students still experience disadvantages by not being on campus. Students struggle to make use of material they can't examine. Overall, the project has been designed to exploit the collection of ACANS, promote the study of numismatics, and improve learners' access to physical evidence.

To achieve these aims, eight units have trialled learning activities based on numismatics. These units span 1200 BCE to 138 CE, and primarily cover Greco-Roman history. A unit covering methodology in art history also incorporates topics from the world of Egyptian and Byzantine art. Another is a generalist unit concerning cultural heritage for students not necessarily studying ancient history. The activities implemented thus far deal with ethics, political history, connoisseurship, conservation, and propaganda. Through the discussion in this paper, it is hoped that we may enter a broader discourse on promoting numismatics in Australia. Not only is the discussion intended to relate this project's findings, but it is also hoped that the response of the numismatic community will improve ACANS' methods in future efforts.

### **Athenian New Style Coinage and the exhaustion of the silver mints in the Laurion district**

*Kenneth Sheedy*

While the neutron activation studies of early Greek silver coins published by Colin Kraay and Vera Emeleus in 1962 are well known, another equally important study has been lost from sight. There was another study of the metal of Greek coins by neutron activation carried out in the very same facility at Harwell by Emeleus, but this time the work was performed in conjunction with the famous American numismatist, Dorothy Thompson. In 1960 Margaret Thompson published her analysis of an impressive New Style 86 coins in vol 3 of *Archaeometry*. It is regrettable that it is rarely mentioned today because it forms a highly instructive counterpoint to Kraay's work. As with the study of Kraay the focus was on two elements, copper and gold. The 16 Early New Style Coins revealed "a great diversity of metallic composition, gold ranging from 0.0076 to 0.33 and copper from 0.035 to 5.3% and a notable lack of concentration points". By contrast the 37 Middle period coins showed "a remarkable degree of consistency in metallic composition, with gold concentrating at 0.09 - 0.25 and copper at 0.05-0.4%. But the 18 late period coins showed different trends: here percentages are high, concentrated between 0.25 and 0.5 gold and 1.5 and 5.5 copper. Thompson matched these compositional patterns with the character of the issues themselves. In this paper I plan to revisit the results of this study and their interpretation.

### **Over 100 years of Australian banknote serial numbering**

*Mick Vort-Ronald, FNSSA*

The serial numbering of Australian Government banknotes commenced with the superscription of notes from 15 private banks and the Queensland Government. Three numbers were overprinted on each note with prefix letters from A to L. The first Australian Government Treasury-designed notes from 1913 commenced with M and N for the Ten

Shillings, P to T for £1, U and V for £5, W for £10, X for £20, Y for £50 and Z for £100. The £1000 was an afterthought with prefix 2A.

With the introduction of the Note Issue Department Commonwealth Bank issues from 1923, prefixes commenced with a single letter prefix over numerals, later progressing to double letter prefixes over numerals for the Queen Elizabeth issues.

Decimal paper notes from 1966 had three prefix letters, but ran out of numbers and had to resort to using some letters again for some denominations.

When \$5 polymer notes commenced in 1992 letters from AA00 to AB19 were used, but a change of system from 1993 of adding the year of printing under the prefixes meant that the first \$5 polymer prefixes could not be used, and thereafter \$5 notes commenced each year at BA(year) while other denominations commenced at AA.

Exceptions to this system were the modern numismatic banknotes issued by Note Printing Australia for collectors from 1988 to 2001, but generally, individual Australian banknotes over the last 105 years can be identified solely by their serial numbers. A list of all these serial number prefixes is attached.

### **Roman Republican and Imperial Coinage circa 280 BC – 27 BC.**

*Richard Welling*

We examine the various types of Roman coinage made in this 250 year period, including the early cast bronze types, the coinage of similar style and weight as that used by Greek colonies in Italy, the silver coinage of the Roman moneyers circa 150-50BC and the coinage and personalities of the Imperial period circa 50BC-27BC.

A range of coin denominations are examined including bronze, silver and gold issues.

### **The Inter-Allied Victory medal of 1919**

*Ross Wilkinson*

The First World War lasted from 4 August 1914 when Britain declared war on Germany after its invasion of Belgium, until 11 November 1918 when an Armistice took effect. Officially the war did not end until 28 June 1919 when Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles.

The centenary of the First World War or Great War as it was commonly titled provides the catalyst for a look at one of the strangest yet most common medals issued to Australians – the Victory Medal. This paper will look at the concept behind its creation, the nations that adopted its production, the numbers produced, the conditions for its award to servicemen and women and the numbers awarded to Australians.

The idea for the medal was first proposed by Marshall Ferdinand Foch, the Allied Forces Supreme Commander, at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. Fifteen nations agreed to issue the medal to a basic design which included an allegorical female “Winged Victory” on the obverse and a description of the War and list of Allied Nations on the reverse. Each nation arranged for their own design to these basic requirements with the United Kingdom being responsible for the medals of its dominions of Australia, Canada, India and New Zealand. South Africa was responsible for its own medal. Several of the Allied nations did not issue medals but there are reports of Polish medals in existence. The United States issued a series of

devices and clasps to be worn on the ribbon while the United Kingdom was the only nation to list 1919 as the conclusion of the war.

In all participating nations the medal is bronze and 36mm in diameter. While the suspender device varies in some cases, the ribbon is a common rainbow design. Because of cultural differences, Japan and Siam (Thailand), were permitted to replace the Winged Victory with a more appropriate design for their respective beliefs.

Approximately 425,000 enlistments by men and women occurred in Australia for the war, but the actual number of individuals was less because multiple enlistments occurred. It was not uncommon for soldiers medically discharged from the AIF to re-enlist under assumed names or after shorter periods of initial service such as those who enlisted for four months in the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force that captured German New Guinea in September 1914.

Reg Williams indicates that 336,000 of these medals were issued to Australians. As part of the criteria to receive the medal was service in a declared war zone, those Australians who did not leave Australia or served overseas in a non-war zone were not eligible to receive it. Also, those who served multiple enlistments under different names were only entitled to one medal.

Based on statistics from the Australian War Memorial that indicate approximately 35,000 South Australians enlisted, representing 8% of total enlistments, about 27,000 medals would have been issued to South Australian servicemen and women.